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Volume XI Number 10

LONDON

OCTOBER 1957

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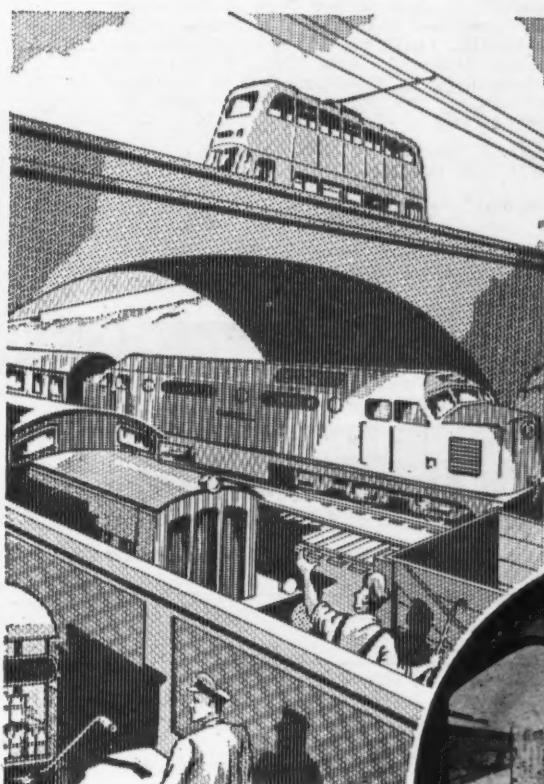


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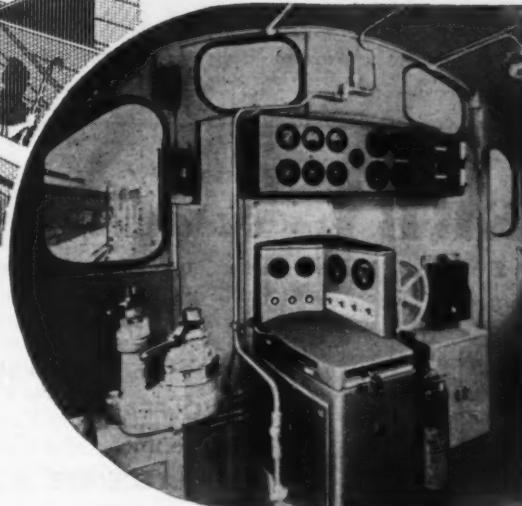
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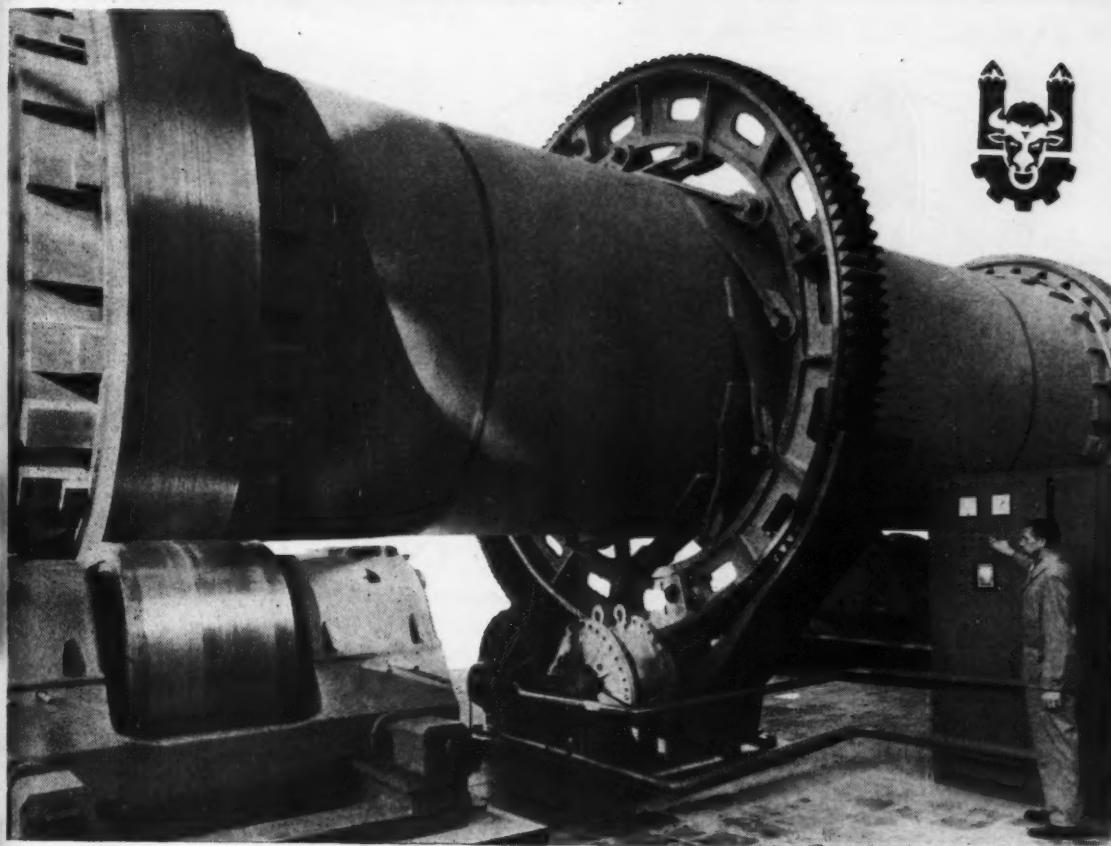
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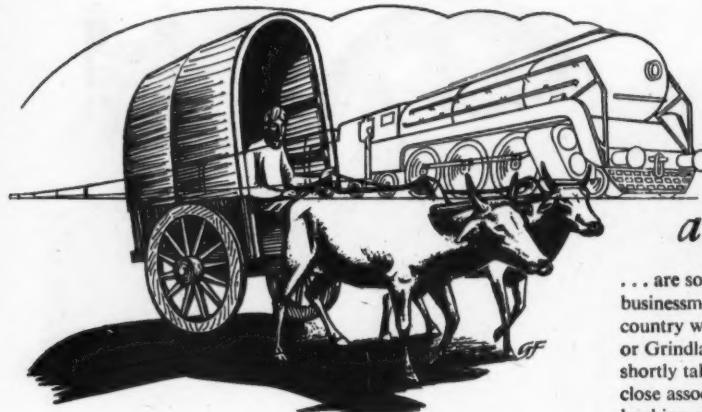


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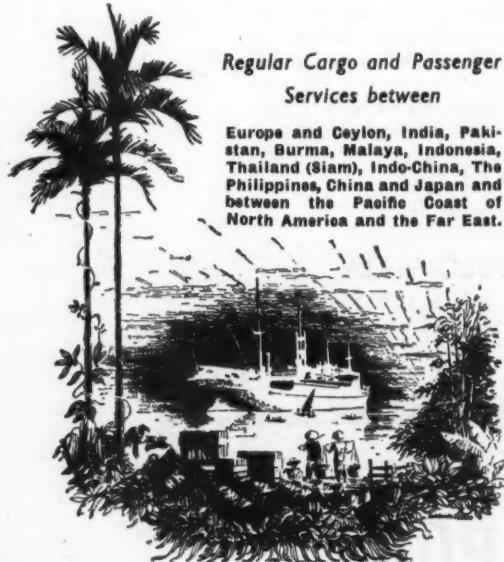
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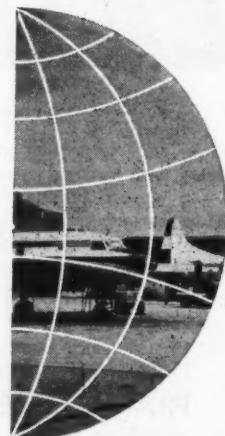
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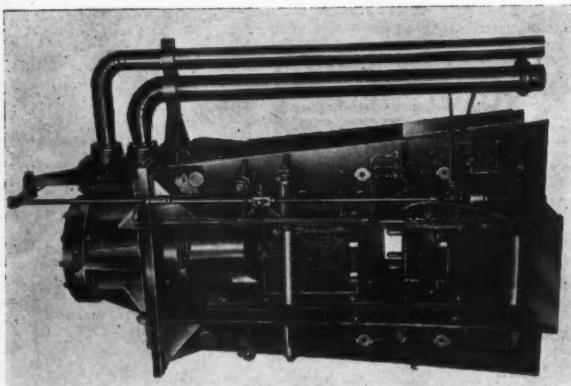
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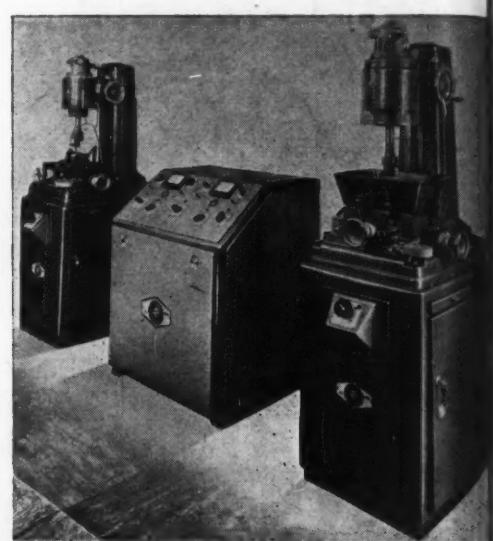
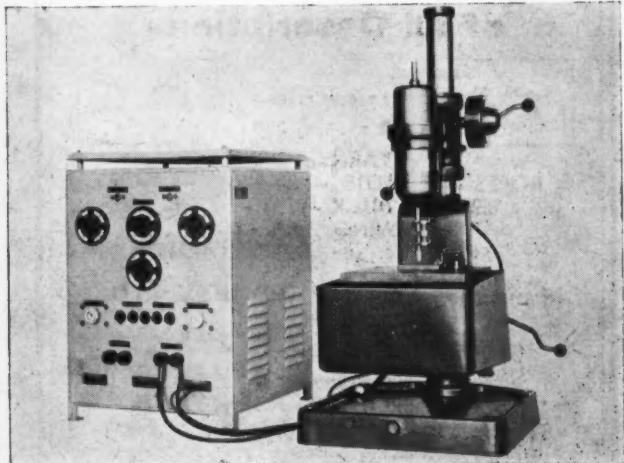
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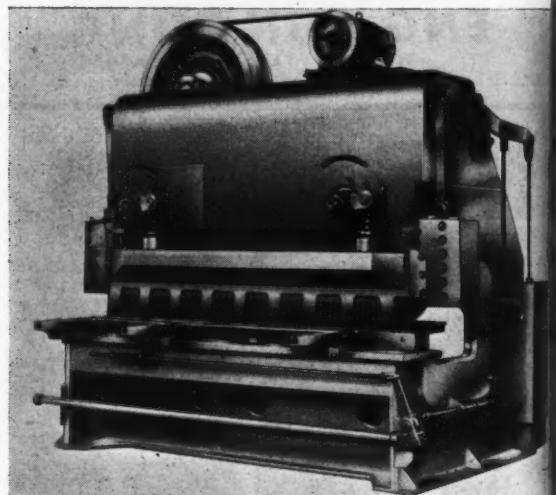
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*The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed in signed articles.*

Front cover picture: China's happy young generation. Children enjoying a sunny afternoon at the famous Western Lake Hangchow.

(Photo by H. C. Tausz)

# EASTERN WORLD

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October

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## Pink Flowers in China

THERE is no doubt that the Chinese Communist Party was surprised at the consequences of the Cheng Feng reform—the movement to allow more freedom of speech. Criticism of the Party and its leaders has been more widespread than was imagined. It is clear that the Communist Party expected certain reactions, in fact the whole idea of the reform was to bring differences into the open so that they could be rectified, but the Party leaders obviously did not envisage groups with similar ideas getting together and proclaiming their antagonism loudly and openly.

The Communist Party's reaction has been to try seriously to combat this reaction by persuasion and discussion, but some more drastic measures have, according to press reports in China's own newspapers, been taken over the past few months. Most of the criticism seems to have come from those who have given a great deal of thought to political doctrine in the last few years. The Communist leadership, clearly expecting criticism of minor party officials and organisation, have been confronted with a forceful reaction to the general political doctrine of the Party, and a mass of divergent opinions. Put into perspective with China's millions, the number of these dissident thinkers is small, but they are nevertheless important.

The purpose of the rectification campaign was to smooth out the differences that were becoming apparent between the people and the minor Party officials. That Mao Tse-tung felt himself able to undertake this was a sign of confidence, and the effect it may have had in the countryside may have been successful. Except for some reports of the outspoken reaction of kulaks, there has been nothing to suggest that Cheng Feng is not achieving its purpose among the peasant farmers. If socialist plans were to work successfully the peasantry had to have more confidence that the leadership was working for their benefit, and by criticism of the Party cadres, the central committee would learn from mistakes. The unforeseen reaction among the intellectuals and university students has presented a new problem.

At the beginning of the summer criticism was mounting, and was indeed at first given free reign in the press. Two Ministers of the Government, who were not members of the Communist Party but of the Democratic Party, Chang Po-chun, Minister of Communications, and Lo Lung-chi, Minister for Timber Industry, gave open voice to their criticisms of the Communist Party rule. Both have subsequently presented the sorry sight of publicly confessing their errors. From the universities there emerged scathing attacks on the Party leadership, and wall newspapers began to call for more positive action, "on the Hungarian pattern." Organisations were set up, quite openly, in Peking University with the object of seeking to obtain from the Communist Party guarantees of freedom and democracy, and of "human rights." A great deal was said among the students about socialism, the course it has taken, and its future in China. The students were encouraged by the reaction of well known writers and scholars, like Ting Ling, the woman writer and long-standing member of the Communist Party, who made open criticisms. All this caused a stir, as much in the foreign press as in China, but what was not generally stated outside China was that while all this criticism was going on in the universities and elsewhere, there was a large body of student and intellectual opinion which reasoned that the Party leadership's political approach was the right one, although they freely criticised and condemned mistakes made by the cadres in the countryside.

As the summer wore on the criticisms began to appear less and less in the newspapers, and the Communist Party began to weigh in with charges of "rightism" among certain groups. The campaign of rectification of mistakes still continues, but freedom of speech among groups of intellectuals is being actively discouraged. The Party leadership is ready to encourage criticism of method but not of doctrine; and it is not prepared to be challenged by other parties.

The upheaval that the "hundred flowers" reform has caused in China should not encourage people outside to think

that the regime is resting upon weak foundations. The strength of the regime lies in the support it enjoys among the masses. Any notions there may be among those whom the Party calls "the rightists" of leading an uprising against the present leadership would founder for the lack of popular support.

It has been an eye-opener, not only for the outside world

but for China's leaders, to find that there are such deep differences of opinion among intellectuals on the way Socialism should be practised in China. The Party is now using the method of discussion and persuasion to prove that theirs is the only way for China. When Mao Tse-tung urged that a hundred flowers should blossom he could hardly have expected such sturdy pink blooms.

## Comment

### Siamese Cocktail

LAST month's gentle *coup d'état* in Siam has little or on meaning in the context of South East Asian affairs. It is largely the outcome of personal rivalries, and it might just as easily have been General Phao who would have come out on top. In the event Marshal Sarit's army proved to be a more powerful force as a backing than Phao's police. Sarit in recent months had gained popularity at the expense of both Pibul Songgram, the Prime Minister, and the Chief of Police, General Phao, and when it looked as if Pibul was preparing to get a little tough with Marshal Sarit by putting a brake on his money making activities, the army chief used his popularity to carry him through the deposition of his rivals without any agitation from the populace. The shift of power at the top has had no effect on the lives of the people, who have always shown apathy towards the comings and goings of their rulers.

But although the impetus of Siamese politics does not come from below — from the people — politics is not such a quiet sphere of activity as it once used to be. Siamese politicians are becoming more active and less inhibited, and although Marshal Sarit's *coup* might mean little in itself, it may have stirred up things just enough to set the political pot simmering.

The power of the armed forces has always held sway in the country, but all around Siam, in South East Asia, there has been an awakening, and because Siam has had no colonial tradition it has been slow to react to trends that have been current in neighbouring countries. There have, however, been signs in recent times that on the political level there is some dissatisfaction with the state of affairs in the country. Clearer lines of political thinking have been emerging, and there have been open criticisms of the country's close attachment to the United States. A left wing has been growing up which is anti-Communist and generally attached to the idea of Asian non-involvement.

The *coup* has resulted in the calling of an election, and political thinking can now be put to the test — providing the elections are run with a good degree of fairness, which is not usual in Siam. The line the left wing will take during the election has already had a pointer with the attack which Thep Jotinchit, the socialist leader, made on the interim Prime Minister, Pote Sarasin, for being under

American influence. How long this open criticism of America, Siam's benefactor, will be allowed is a matter for speculation, but it seems certain that very soon the interim Prime Minister will let it be known that Siam has dangerous pro-Communists in its midst. Already Pote Sarasin, only a few days after taking office, has said that he intends to investigate and expose subversive Communists. The investigation will try to find out how far socialist supporters and newspapers are backed by Communists. This from one of the best friends of the Americans smells fishy.

It will be a long time before political parties can function under a proper democratic system in Siam. Before they do, a lot of work has to be done in getting at least a modicum of popular support. The only thing Marshal Sarit's *coup* seems to have done is to have brought that day a little nearer.

### The Left in Singapore

MALAYA has attained independence but the problems of Singapore are no nearer solution. They are so complex, with so many cross currents of racialism and politics that an electronic brain would be hard put to it to make the situation clear cut and understandable.

That Communist thinking and activities are rife in the Colony there is no denying; but it is pertinent to ask why. None of the Singapore leaders has yet offered an adequate explanation. The arrest by Mr. Lim Yew Hock, the Chief Minister, of many people on the charge of subversion may clear the air temporarily, but it will hardly help in getting to the roots of the trouble.

Communism in a place like Singapore has, or should have, a purely negative appeal to the majority of its followers. It is easy to recognise that the dissatisfaction has a largely Chinese foundation, and it is, of course, not difficult for persuasive leading Communists to rouse urban Chinese who already have a burning pride in the achievements of China, their spiritual home. The dissatisfaction is not widespread, but it is virile, and it may easily spread unless the leaders of the recognised political parties are prepared to take the initiative out of Communist hands by

accepting the grievances of the urban Chinese as their own problems.

Everyone in Singapore knows that the alternative to colonial status is independence within the whole Malayan picture, and many Singapore Chinese do not like what they see in Malaya. Furthermore they have some justification for believing that Mr. Lim and his Government spend a disproportionate amount of their energy in keeping the left wing Chinese quiet to impress the Malayans and the British Colonial Office. But this is a curious way of going about things. Before Singapore can be ready for independence there must be unity, and getting tough with the predominantly Chinese left wing will put unity farther out of reach. Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, leader of the People's Action Party, is the only political figure who seems so far to have recognised this. And even he, since his trip to London with the constitutional delegation earlier this year, has been something less than decisive in his political behaviour. Since nine of those recently arrested were from Mr. Lee's own party, he has been put into the awkward position of denying that the PAP was dominated by Communism, while at the same time trying not to show his relief at the arrests which leave the way clear for him to impress his own democratic socialism more firmly on the party.

It is not sufficient for the Labour Front, the PAP, or any of the parties who participate in the Assembly to think that negative and subversive left wing activities can be eradicated by arresting leading revolutionaries. Many of the grievances, desires and fears at the lower levels in Singapore are genuine enough, but only the Communists have so far picked them up and given them tangible form in the simple political terms that ordinary people understand. Mr. Lim Yew Hock, himself a one time trade union leader and a professed Socialist ought, if he applied himself assiduously to the task of examining the situation at its roots, to be able to get the following of those who now look for solutions in a revolutionary fashion. It will be far from easy, especially as Mr. Lee Kuan Yew will also be swimming in the same stream.

The future of Singapore will depend to a great extent on whether the extreme left can be won away from revolutionary ideas. Those in Singapore who could do the winning ought quickly to pluck themselves free from the right wing barbs on which their coat tails seem at the moment to be securely hooked.

## India's Money Problem

INDIA wants foreign economic aid, not in "gifts" from anybody but in terms of "honest business transactions," to carry through the Second Five-Year Plan. "Even if we did not get a rupee from outside," Mr. Nehru is reported to have said, "we would fight the present foreign exchange crisis and win it." The statement, quoted in the Congress publication *Economic Review*, made early in September to a closed-door session of the All-India Congress Committee, answers numerous doubts voiced about the probable future of the Plan.

Just before leaving India to attend the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings in America, the

Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari declared that he was not worrying about the internal resources of the country, nor would he be unduly disappointed if he did not get a loan from the US. Though unwilling to commit himself on the prospect of securing one, he did not deny that a loan to tide India over the foreign exchange shortage, which is likely to last for another year, would be welcome.

There seems thus no doubt, judging by the self-confidence in private at home, and the boldness for publicity purposes, of the Indian leaders' determination to carry through the Plan. Certainly they need a measure of foreign assistance, since the Plan itself is based on substantial "foreign resources" obtained in various ways — by withdrawals from the sterling balances, by sterling and/or dollar loans, or other available means. But the need has suddenly grown to unexpected proportions. Expenditure in the private capital investment sector has run ahead too fast. Necessarily there is now redoubled control over this field, even to the restriction of much legitimate Indo-British commerce; but it is proving hard to get the required foreign exchange, though not altogether impossible.

The raising of Britain's bank rate to 7 percent finally disposes of any chance of a British loan, which indeed never looked very bright. It may also increase India's drafts on the balances — still over £300 million — unless the Treasury is willing to revise the nominal half percent interest it pays to India. Unlike Britain's West European NATO allies, India, as a member of the Commonwealth and sterling area, wants sterling to remain strong and stable. It would, however, be unreasonable to assume that she will continue, if the cost proves disproportionately high, to maintain a large balance in London when everyone else wants to withdraw.

In a tight corner, India may resort to ways not at all to the liking of the West. The course of tightening her belt, and stepping up exports by every means, has already been entered on. The measures undertaken so far are impressive evidence of India's determination and national unity, but if denied all aid from the West, there may come a point where the Government must resort to a measure of regimentation, with almost inevitably some dissension among the public. The other possible course is for India to get the necessary aid from the Soviet bloc. Up to now India has shown an understandable reluctance to be too greatly indebted to the East, but British observers in India report that the possibility of a greater leaning towards the Communist countries, including their forms of economy, cannot be ruled out. If the West fails her now, the East can probably meet her needs.

India's trade and economic ties are still overwhelmingly with the West, and trade with the East, though now growing, remains insignificant. There is therefore very little reason why India, in spite of violent Western objections, should not have much greater economic cooperation with the East, and yet be able to preserve her democratic system, her non-aligned foreign policy and her mixed economy. Many people in India argue that it would probably even help India to maintain her present political attitude if she could balance her economic relations with the two power blocs. The current spasmodic cuts in American foreign spending, coupled with Britain's financial difficulties, may leave India no option but to explore her chances in the Soviet sphere. All that Britain could properly expect would be for India not to seek an expansion of trade with the East at the cost of her British trade, but rather by expanding her own economic efforts.

## Defence of Malaya

THE defence agreement between Britain and Malaya, published last month and due to be agreed by the Legislative Council in Kuala Lumpur early this month, has had to take into account the fact that although Britain is committed to SEATO strategy, many details of the arrangement must not embarrass Malaya who is not a party to the Treaty. This has been done by laying it down that if a situation arose where Britain, under the SEATO agreement, helped to resist an attack on a territory which was not British (like Siam for instance), British troops could not operate from Malayan territory. But the forces stationed in Malaya can be used in defence of British territories in Asia, which means that if an attack took place by a foreign country on Hong Kong or North Borneo, British troops could and would operate from Malayan bases.

This, of course, is all academic — for the purpose of a written treaty only. The only armed attack which Britain and her partners in SEATO envisage is one from China. In such an unlikely event, no matter where the attack occurred, Malaya would be in the thick of the fight before you could say knife. But the agreement is an exercise in how not to offend a newly independent country's susceptibilities. In this respect the defence agreement is very instructive.

Malaya being without much of an army of its own, is to be protected against external attack by Commonwealth arms, and to have its army trained by Britain. The agreement does not give any information about how long both

governments think it will be before Malaya has a large enough army to satisfy her needs.

The agreement on anti-terrorist activities, although connected with overall defence, is agreed separately. The same Commonwealth forces which will be in Malaya for the purpose of defence will be available, if required, to assist Malayan forces in activities against the Communist terrorist in the jungle. This will, in effect, not change the situation from how it has stood up to now, except that anti-terrorist operations will be directed by an Emergency Operations Council of the Malayan Government, presided over by a British general, known as the Director of Operations. Commonwealth troops will be required to operate under his general direction.

All this means that although Malaya is now an independent country within the Commonwealth, Britain in fact will still control one vital factor in the country's life — the military. All very necessary at this time, no doubt, but it would be interesting to know what would happen — to take a pure hypothesis — if the Malayan Government in a few months' time were faced with a militant strike or widespread rioting. Would this come under the jurisdiction of the Director of Emergency Operations? And at what point would the Government call on the help of Commonwealth troops?

This is an interesting speculation, for it has been shown that armies sometimes have a vital role to play in a new nation's formative years. What is the position when the army is not the country's own?



# Elementaries of China's Foreign Policy

By E. H. Rawlings

THE exclusion of the Chinese People's Republic from the United Nations prevents her from taking a more active part in general international affairs and keeps her comparatively isolated from the West. Therefore, China has had no other choice but to turn to Russia for support of her foreign policies, which is, of course, only natural because of the common interests and ideology shared between the two powers. The alliance between the two countries, signed in 1950, provides for cooperation in international problems of mutual interest, but it does not provide for military assistance except in the case of aggression by Japan.

The alliance between China and the USSR is even stronger than that between the United States and Britain with the result that it has enabled China to play a decisive part in the shaping of Asian affairs despite her being debarred from the United Nations.

At present, the outstanding feature of Chinese foreign policy is the expansion of Chinese influence over as large an area as possible in Asia. This is being achieved through the development of cultural relations and the conclusion of trade agreements. In fact, China has had considerable success in this respect, particularly with Asian Governments following a neutral policy. For Chinese foreign policy is based on the "five principles of peaceful coexistence" to which many Asian Governments have subscribed. (The five principles: mutual respect for national sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-aggression, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence). It is widely believed that China's ultimate aim is to establish herself as leader of the Asian nations, and when this is achieved, to extend this leadership to the African countries. Chinese influence in Africa has already been on the increase since Premier Chou En-lai attended the Bandung Conference of Asian and African countries in April 1955 when his conciliatory attitude helped to lay the foundation of the "Bandung policy." This has indeed strengthened China's position as a foreign power, and she is certain to take a keener interest in Middle East affairs with the establishment of diplomatic relations and economic agreements with several Arab countries.

It is only natural that the Chinese want to head the revival of Asia and Africa as they are potentially the strongest coloured power in the world, but their present economic backwardness makes it impossible for them to claim the leadership of the so-called anti-colonial forces in the immediate future. Nor are they yet in a position to challenge United States and British economic and technical aid to these countries as they are still lacking the resources to advance assistance on a similar scale. Therefore, China is, for the present at least, concentrating her efforts on expanding her ideological influence, and she will undoubtedly continue to pursue this policy until she is in a position to exert fuller political control over her future possible allies.

Furthermore, the Chinese realise that it is impossible to eliminate Western influence in Asia and to win the cooperation of pro-Western countries by force. They have, there-

fore, adopted a more softening attitude towards the non-Communist Governments of Asia even where Communist rebellion forces are still operating. For example, the Chinese are now friendly towards the Burmese Government, while relations with Siam, which is strongly anti-Communist and a leading member of SEATO, are improving. In Indo-China the Chinese are pursuing a conciliatory policy towards the non-Communist Governments of Cambodia and Laos with the hope that this will eventually bring about a united Viet Nam under predominantly Chinese influence.

China's most powerful rival for the leadership of the Arab-Asian nations is India. In the early years of the Peking regime the Chinese Communists often attacked the Indian rulers for their pro-Western policies. Since the Korean war, Sino-Indian relations have become more cordial, because India sided with China on certain international issues. Moreover, Chinese influence is slowly rivalling that of India in Nepal, and early this year an agreement was signed for Chinese aid to that country. As the Chinese try to extend their power over South-East Asia, it is thought likely that Sino-Indian relations may become somewhat less cordial than at present.

Generally speaking, Chinese influence is gradually replacing Soviet influence in Asia to the extent that many Asian countries now turn to China for some kind of an alliance. This is probably what the Soviet leaders want as it not only relieves a burden on their own economic resources, but it also indirectly strengthens their strategic position in the Far East.

One of the main objectives of Chinese foreign policy in Asia is strategic, and particularly directed against member countries of SEATO and all military alliances with the United States.

In addition to improving the country's strategic position, the Chinese Government is concerned with strengthening the security of the country's frontiers. The presence of potentially hostile forces in Formosa, in South Korea, and in Japan causes it some anxiety as they are all within bombing range of her industrial centres. Therefore, one important aim of Chinese foreign policy is the elimination of Nationalist forces in Formosa, or the cessation of American support for the latter; the withdrawal of American forces from South Korea; and to see Japan become independent of American power and influence.

In Outer Mongolia, Chinese influence has been greatly extended by the ten-year agreement signed in 1952 for economic, cultural and educational cooperation, and similarly strengthened relations have been established with the neighbouring socialist republics of Viet Nam and North Korea.

The Chinese Government regards Hong Kong, Macao and Formosa as traditional parts of China not yet under its control. So far no attempt has been made to gain the return of Hong Kong and Macao. Perhaps the reason being that the two colonies provide China with important supplies of foreign currency, and are also a means of contacting Formosa.

As a military attack against Formosa is out of the question, the Chinese Government has for the last two years been devoting its propaganda on the possibility of the "peaceful liberation" of Formosa. Any Kuomintang leaders who participate in bringing forth this peaceful liberation are promised suitable positions under the Peking Government.

It is, therefore, seen that Communist China has a clear-cut foreign policy, which it is carrying out with vigour and confidence. The greatest hindrance for reaching her goals in this field is the presence of Western influence in Asia. As long as the Americans, British and other Western nations have a foothold in Asia, China will be unable to achieve her

aims unless she resorts to military force, which is most unlikely even with Soviet support. She must rather be expected to try and eliminate Western influence through her methods of propaganda and diplomacy, and will encourage other Asian Governments to become less dependent on the United States.

Nevertheless, many non-Communist Asian countries are aware that it will be some years before China's economy is up to the standard of that of the Soviet Union let alone that of the United States, so it is improbable that these countries, which are already struggling to improve their standards of living, will turn their back on their present sources of help.

## ASIAN SURVEY

### MALAYA'S QUIET MERDEKA

*From our Kuala Lumpur Correspondent*

NEVER before, probably in history, has any country achieved its independence with such dignity and peacefulness as Malaya. There was jubilation, particularly in Kuala Lumpur, but it was restrained, good-hearted and oozing with friendliness to the British. Many foreign visitors were frankly amazed that there was no wild scenes of rejoicing, no dancing in the streets, or even any minor sign of animosity towards Britain. Until they were told, few realised that Malaya has virtually been an independent country for the past two years with its own ministerial cabinet entrusted to make the most vital decisions.

The only difference as and from August 31 this year is that no longer is there a British High Commissioner with powers to over-ride any decisions which had been made . . . and, incidentally, the last British High Commissioner, Sir Donald MacGillivray, never once had occasion to use these powers.

Apart from the Communists in Malaya, who used the independence line in a bid to win over the simple villagers, not one person has been imprisoned for nationalist actions, as this country has trodden the post-war road to self-government. There is not one member of the Federal Legislative Council today, or community leader outside, who has set foot in a prison for agitating for self-rule. Hence, Malaya starts off on a far different footing from any other country in the world.

Kuala Lumpur was, of course, gaily decorated with bunting and flags, with fairy-lights and floodlit buildings, but in all fairness the decorations nowhere came up to the splendour of those seen here during the Coronation time in 1953. On the actual morning of independence, in Kuala Lumpur's new £300,000 Merdeka (Freedom) Stadium in the heart of the capital, 20,000 people stood rigidly to attention, many with moist eyes, as "God Save the Queen" was played for the last time as this country's national anthem. But a few seconds later, their hearts rightly swelled with national pride as the massed bands struck-up with Malaya's own national anthem, Negara Ku (My Country) and the Federation's flag was slowly and gracefully raised to the flagstaff.

Malayans generally, whether they be Malays, Chinese Indians or other races, are not emotional people. They are shy at showing any outward sign of their true feelings, rarely, if ever, clapping or cheering. Consequently, it was through streets of silent people that the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester rode to the stadium to hand over the constitutional instrument to Malaya's first Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman. The silence was equally noticeable as the Tunku himself and the first Paramount Ruler (King) drove to and from the ceremony.

Perhaps the most memorable sentence in the Tunku's speech was this: "Britain will ever find in us her best friend and it is a source of much gratification that British civil servants will continue to serve this country to assist us in the solution of the many problems which independence will present." These words, more than anything else, summed-up the tremendous fund of goodwill existing between Britain and Malaya. And, they have since been acclaimed by many other Malayan leaders.

For a week or so before independence, one or two rumours had floated around the capital that there would be clashes between the Malays and Chinese. Passed from mouth to mouth, one rumour told of Malays in a certain town buying hundreds of *parangs* (long knives). Where the rumours originated baffled many people and it is still speculated that they were started by Communist sympathisers hoping that fear would drive people into believing them and perhaps even acting upon them.

Fortunately, however, the rumours proved baseless beyond doubt. Instead of any sign of knives there was friendliness and goodwill among all races from the Johor causeway in the south to the Siamese border in the north. Not one incident was reported throughout the land. The spirit of the hour was never more typified than that which happened on the stroke of midnight on independence day when hundreds of Malays on the padang (green playing fields in the heart of Kuala Lumpur) were invited into the exclusive Selangor Club (formerly a European-only domain but for several years open to all races) to have whisky and

soda and soft drinks with British businessmen and Government officers.

Eight hours after independence was officially declared, the last British High Commissioner, Sir Donald MacGillivray, left Kuala Lumpur and his send-off was deeply moving for Sir Donald has worked unstintingly for five years for this country, ironing out all the rough spots in her march forward to self-government. He has been described as the greatest of all High Commissioners here. And to see him leave, apart from the Paramount Ruler, the Malay Rulers and the whole cabinet, was Field Marshal Sir Gerald Templer, his immediate predecessor as High Commissioner and the man who turned the tide against Communist terrorism here.

Sir Gerald and his wife had been specially invited as Government guests for the independence celebrations, together with Lady Gent (widow of Sir Edward, the first post-war High Commissioner who saw the advent of the terrorism in 1948 and was killed in an air crash near London while going to report to the Colonial Office), and Lady Gurney (widow of Sir Henry, the second post-war High Commissioner who was murdered by terrorists in 1951).

What struck many official foreign visitors — from Asian, African and European countries alike — was the cleanliness of Kuala Lumpur and the greenery of its surroundings. Without exception, they all commented on this. The representatives of Ghana just couldn't believe their eyes. "We never expected anything like this, I can tell you," said one of them who holds ministerial rank.

But now the celebrations are over. The flags and bunting are stored away and the Tunku has called for people to work harder, stressing that this is the beginning, not the end. However, the biggest job ahead is ending the Emergency, now in its tenth year. The Prime Minister wants it over and done with by August 31, 1958, the first anniversary of independence. In a bid to hasten its end, he has just announced new surrender terms hoping that the remaining 1,800 terrorists left in the jungle will come out.

As yet, it is too early to forecast whether or not this call will be successful, but if not the terrorists can expect, not a slackening of the campaign against them, but an intensification of it. Observers here feel that the 400 hardcore Communists still in the jungle will refuse the offer but how long they can hold together the other 1,400 stragglers is something only tomorrow can tell.

## Japan

### Crown Prince Marriage

*From Stuart Griffin*

(EASTERN WORLD Tokyo Correspondent)

There is one question upon the lips of every loyal Japanese, as the present Marine Biologist-Emperor grows greyer about his receding hair-line: when will Crown Prince Akihito choose a bride, or put another way — when will they choose Akihito's future Empress for his future Majesty?

Those who claimed the selection would be made last year have fallen back, as an excuse, upon the mysterious Japanese language. The year 1956, by the Japanese zodiac, was the Year of the Monkey, and the word for monkey in

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the 45,000 character tongue is also the word for depart, or by extension, divorce. Those who argued 1957 is the year will be hard put, on the other hand, to explain their failure when, as now expected, the Crown Prince does not marry this year. For 1957 is the Year of the Chicken, and another reading of the characters is the verb to take, to take a bride by inference.

Talk of a royal marriage dates back to 1951, a year after the Prince had finished his private tutoring with the Quaker author, Mrs. Elizabeth Gray Vining. Prospective brides for the tennis-loving, ski-enthusiastic heir apparent are numbered on the fingers of two hands, perhaps only one. They are daughters of lines, ancient and tangential to the Imperial strain, and of these, several are less than 18. Some few come from families which called themselves Marquises and Counts before General MacArthur ended these titles in 1946, and hail from the pre-Meiji Restoration (of the Emperor in 1868) *daimyo* or feudal lord class.

Akihito, just short of 24 years himself, has his own opinions of a future Empress, and he has asked that his opinions and feelings be respected. He prefers a girl with both parents living, good-looking with the traditional *uri-zane* (melon-seed eyes) good looks, not too tall but slender, lover of sports and music alike, a wit, a capable hostess, and enough of a linguist to keep up with her husband who already is fluent in both English and French.

The Peers School graduate, now living by himself with a retinue of servants, but apart from his Imperial parents in a half-Western, half-Japanese style house 15 minutes from Tokyo's exciting heart, is a busy man. Besides science and language and sports — all of which he is fond of and proficient in — Akihito (a name without meaning in English) studies the fundamentals of future sovereignty. His tutor, Dr. Shinzo Koizumi, uses as texts the biographies of the British Royal Family. In addition, small, straight-shouldered Akihito, studied jurisprudence from none other than the Chief Justice of the Japanese Supreme Court. And he studies English literature, biology, French philosophy, and elementary German, under other servants, two of them foreigners.

Sex education, far from being touchy, is open. His tutor, a noted ichthyologist, holding that "the behaviour of fish is related to the act of reproduction," teaches two subjects. Free time though the Prince spends at the ping-pong table, the tennis court, the swimming pool, or at the wheel of his car. But Akihito, it is said, is lonely — primarily for the more carefree days of school. Accordingly,



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say his advisors, the Crown Prince should be married, Debake as to who the spouse should be has occupied the greybeards of the Imperial Household, the Grand Chamberlain, the private tutors, and members of the Imperial Family.

All they have come up with to date though are a sort of "ground rules." The future Empress should be 24 or 25 years old. She should be from either court nobility, the higher peerage, or from a branch line of the one-time *daimyo-ate*. She must be under Akihito's trim five foot five inch build. She must speak at least English or French. She must be healthy. Thorough investigations have been made into only 50 girls, primarily from Tokyo, ancient Nara and Kyoto — all three present or former Japanese capital cities. But if all the eligible noble families are included, the number of candidates would rise steeply — since there are 19 princes, 41 marquises, 190 counts, and 475 viscounts.

Meanwhile, with energy but placidly, the future Emperor contents himself with learning the business of the job ahead. The job began, he is rumoured to have said, from a personal point of view, when he returned from the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, deeply impressed, eager to imitate, willing to serve.

### Ceylon

## Land Reform

*From Our Colombo Correspondent*

A situation no less serious than the recently ended language crisis is developing in Ceylon over the question of paddy land reform. The Minister of Agriculture and Food, Mr. Philip Gunawardena has proposed that the present system of tenant-cultivation be abolished in favour of a system which will ultimately make the peasants the owners of the land they cultivate.

This idea is the central motif of the controversial Paddy Lands Bill he has drafted. Even Cabinet colleagues have spoken publicly against the Bill, so that its chances of becoming law without precipitating a Government crisis are slim. Leading the opposition to the Bill is Mr. R. G. Senanayake, Minister of Trade and Commerce, who sees in it the seeds of the nationalisation of all land. According to him, the real aim of Mr. Gunawardena, who is one of the two Marxist Ministers in the People's United Front, forming the Government, is to capture the peasant-vote for setting up of a government by dictatorship. Mr. Senanayake, who resigned from the former United National Party Government over its decision to restrict trade with People's China, has threatened to resign from the present Government, too, if the Bill is passed.

Mr. Senanayake is supported by the rich landlords whose income will be more than halved if the Bill comes into force. But not a single political party has come out in opposition to the Bill, not even the right-wing United National Party, for public opinion is overwhelmingly in favour of it. Some sections have called it the most progressive legislation devised in the island in the last fifty years.

Though about a dozen Government MPs have spoken against the Bill, it is unlikely that any one of them (apart

from Mr. Senanayake) will oppose it when it is presented in Parliament towards the end of the year. But as a concession to them, it is probable that the Bill will be modified to take away some of its rigour.

## Burma

### Plan for Morals

*From A Correspondent in Rangoon*

THE Burmese Government has formulated a Four-Year Plan designed to raise the moral standards of the population and to bring about greater efficiency in the national economy and social services of the country. To achieve these aims the Plan is divided into three sectors: (1) Law and Order, (2) National Economy, and (3) Social Services.

The administration of law and order is at present receiving special attention as the greatest task facing the Government is to fight crime and corruption, and this can only be done on a satisfactory scale by reorganising the forces concerned in maintaining law and order, and to improve the morale of government servants. It is generally realised that the failure to control delinquency among all sections of the population has hindered the expansion of the national economy and social services.

It is planned to increase the efficiency of the Civil Police, Special Police, Military Police and Pyusawhti by providing them with the necessary equipment other than arms and ammunition for fighting crime. More power will be given to the Civil Police as law and order is restored. Communications, especially roads, are to be improved in rural districts to facilitate the transport of troops. Moreover, programmes are being drawn up to accelerate the course of justice and eliminate fear and favour in the law courts. This might require the amendment of some of the existing laws. The public are to be educated in cooperating with the police for the suppression of crime.

These Services cannot function efficiently unless the morale of the men in them is high. The main concern of the Burmese Government is the morale of its employees. The two measures suggested by U Nu, the Prime Minister, for strengthening their morale are: (1) to enable them to purchase essential consumer goods at lower prices, and (2) to devise a plan whereby government servants can raise loans at low interest rates. It is also proposed that certain social amenities should be available to government servants. A committee is already investigating the various reasons for the low morale among government servants.

In the economic sector of the Plan the first measure will be to reduce the cost of production of such crops as rice and timber by eliminating wastage and ensuring a higher degree of cooperation from management and employees. A similar course is to be taken in industry, mining, and transport in order to overcome the losses that have been entailed in these fields. Until the country's present industries are efficiently and profitably run, no new projects, other than those considered indispensable, will be allowed to proceed.

Furthermore, there is no question of further nationalisation beyond those industries already under Government

control, but the Government will participate in certain classified industries in a joint partnership with citizens and foreigners, or with foreigners alone. At present 44 percent of Burma's arable land is still uncultivated, so it is planned to plant a vast variety of crops, such as rubber, tobacco, tea and so forth in these unused areas. This will enable Burma to become more self-sufficient and save on foreign exchange.

In the field of social services priority is to be given to water sufficiency in drought areas, and the prevention of fires which destroy a number of homes each year. As the main cause of fires is building congestion in the towns, it will be necessary to regulate house building and to develop housing sites on the outskirts of the town. Other social services which will be overhauled and possibly reorganised are education and health. There is an insufficient number of doctors and medical auxiliaries in Burma to provide an efficient health service, therefore the task will be to increase personnel in this field. Mass education is expected to be introduced on a national scale in order to induce people to lift themselves out of their present irresponsible habits and ways of living.

Whether the Plan will be a success will, of course, depend on the cooperation of the people. At present the vast majority of the Burmese people are not State conscious and are inclined to get all they can from life through the easiest possible way whether it is honest or otherwise. Therefore, it is probable that there will be some unfavourable, psychological reactions to the Plan as these people will not like their way of life disturbed. But if the Government shows patience and tact as well as firmness there is no reason why the Plan should not eventually succeed, although it will undoubtedly take more than four years to achieve any outstanding results in strengthening morale standards.

## Australia

### Australian Uncertainties

*By Charles Meeking*

(EASTERN WORLD Canberra Correspondent)

Economic stresses, including those likely to arise from the new trade pact with Japan; apprehensions on defence policies, including the attitude of Malaya to SEATO; political manoeuvring, including the manner in which the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. H. V. Evatt, is strengthening his control of the diminished but currently virile Labour party; and some new and disturbing uncertainties on relationships with Asia are creating an atmosphere of doubt in Australia. Nevertheless there was no evidence in mid-September of any despondency, and share prices were generally firm despite the decline in wool prices in the early sales of the new season.

Australians, like most people in the world today, are aware by now that their own future and that of their country are being determined by factors largely outside their own control. Any final failure of the large Powers to agree on disarmament, or some sudden flare-up in the Middle East, for example, could upset all plans for Australian

development now being made in Canberra. Knowledge of this is inducing a curious sensation of marking time in a vacuum in many quarters of the community which normally are both active and actively planning ahead. Yet industrial development is progressing at a fair rate, migration is continuing (in spite of some misgivings on the problems of possible unemployment and certain accommodation shortages), and the search for oil and minerals is being intensified. There is no sign of disagreement with the statement of the recent visitor, President Ngo Dinh Diem, of South Viet Nam, that Australia has a major role to play in assisting the development of Asian countries, but there is little evidence of any active desire to do so, beyond the contributions to the Colombo Plan and the admission of some hundreds of Asian students to Australian universities and technical colleges.

The political aspect of the Australian scene is curiously obscure. The Menzies Government assumed until recently that the deep and continuing division among its Labour opponents automatically assured it of continued office indefinitely. Now, however, it is faced with deep resentments generated by sections of the cautious budget presented in early September, by the hostility of many manufacturers to the Japanese trade pact (and threatened to other Asian trade agreements soon to be negotiated), by the Labour campaign which suggests that pending legislation on banking is an attack by vested interests and the private trading banks on "the people's bank," and by the increasing and understandable feeling that much of the heavy defence expenditure in the last eight years has done little or nothing to safeguard the country.

The Government does not have to go to the polls until the end of 1958, except in the unlikely event of a double dissolution of both Houses over the banking issue. On this there have been suggestions of a temporary alliance between the sectors of Labour, which on paper would give them sufficient voting strength in the Senate to block the Government's plans. Such an alliance seems highly speculative, for reasons which include Labour's unacknowledged unwillingness to face the country in a fight over what would be termed "bank nationalisation."

In the meantime, Dr. Evatt, in spite of the large number of his critics in the Labour party, inside and outside Parliament, is seen as having consolidated his grip on the control of the party, to an extent not achieved by his predecessors. There is no sign of any serious rival to his leadership, but Mr. E. J. Ward and his supporters are increasingly critical of the deputy leader, Mr. A. A. Caldwell. It is now believed that Dr. Evatt will still lead Labour in the next election campaign. He may, however, transfer to an electorate less politically uncertain than his present one of Barton, in Sydney's south-western suburbs.

The breakaway Democratic Labour party, which has just held its first federal conference, has caused something of a stir by criticising what is generally termed "the White Australia policy." The party, which has scant parliamentary strength but could eventually become a centre party with some political nuisance value, affirmed "the right of all nations to maintain the stability of their economic and social structure by planned migration," but rejected "any idea that a protective and social policy should be confused with or perverted into one of discrimination based on race or colour." This has caused a good deal of speculation, and a demand for a more explicit statement, which so far has not

been forthcoming. Any Asian critics of Australian restrictions of immigration should not be unduly elated by this development.

The vague communique issued on the departure of Mr. Duncan Sandys from Canberra did nothing to allay fear on defence policy, and there was concern at the delay by the Prime Minister, Mr. Menzies, in making his promised statement on the subject. The *Sydney Bulletin*, which has been a strong supporter of the Government, summed up its views: "The implementation of the new defence-network by all the Powers involved is in a real sense a race against time; a race to make the Pacific and Indian Ocean bases safe before subversion and the building up of huge masses of military manpower lead to the overrunning of the Malayan and Indonesian areas. Whatever is happening behind the scenes, Australia has the appearance at the moment of 'running dead'."

That, perhaps, sums up fairly accurately the general feeling of Australians. It is not a comfortable one.

## United States

### Senator Mansfield

From David C. Williams

(EASTERN WORLD Washington Correspondent)

Few men come to the American Congress with any substantial background of knowledge about Asian affairs — still fewer who have lived and worked in Asia. There have been only a few outstanding exceptions, such as the late Senator Thomas of Utah, who was a missionary of the Mormon Church in Japan and who broadcast in fluent Japanese during World War II, and Congressman Walter Judd, who had been a medical missionary in China. It is significant, therefore, that one of the most influential of Democratic Senators — Senator Michael J. Mansfield of Montana — brings to the deliberations of the Senate much knowledge of this important area of the world, both practical and academic.

A lean, wiry Westerner, who looks much younger than his 54 years, Mansfield has had an unconventional career, even by American standards. He enlisted in the Navy during the first war, and in the immediate post-war years served as a regular enlisted man both in the Army and in the Marine Corps. During his tours of duty he was stationed in or visited the Philippines, China, Formosa and Japan. Ending his military service in 1922, he worked as a miner and a mining engineer in the copper mines of Butte, Montana, for eight years. Then, making a complete change of careers as Americans do more often than Europeans, he took academic degrees at the University of Montana and remained at the University as Professor of Latin American and Far Eastern History from 1933 to 1943. Beginning in 1943, he served five successive terms as one of the two Congressmen from Montana, and in 1952 was elected to a six-year term as Senator, which he is now serving.

A strong New Dealer when he first entered Congress, Mansfield has moved gradually to the right during his 14 years there — or perhaps it is more correct to say that he has held a position slightly to the left of centre of the

Democratic Party as the Party itself has grown more conservative. His position has made him a bridge between the Western Senators and the more moderate Southerners, particularly Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas, the Majority Leader. His growing influence was recognised in his choice, largely through Senator Johnson's influence, as Majority Whip — a distinction unusual for a first term Senator which makes him, in effect, second in command to Johnson himself. During the past session of Congress he fought shoulder-to-shoulder with Johnson for a compromise on legislation seeking to ensure Southern Negroes the right to vote, and was instrumental in pushing this compromise through in spite of the efforts of the Republicans and of a hard core of liberal Democrats to secure the enactment of stronger legislation.

Mansfield is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Since rank in Committees is determined by seniority, he ranks fifth among the eight Democratic members, but it is safe to say that he has far more influence in its counsels than his relatively low rank would indicate. During his Congressional service, he has visited Asia a number of times, first as a member of a Congressional mission to the Nationalist Government at Chungking during his first term as Congressman.

Mansfield visited Indo-China during 1953, and has taken a keen interest in this country ever since. He was from the beginning a staunch supporter of Ngo Dinh Diem, now President of Viet Nam. His faith in the ability of Diem to lead his country remained constant through periods when most non-American and many American observers considered him doomed to failure, and Mansfield now feels that his position has been justified by events.

Another particular interest of Mansfield's has been the Technical Assistance Programme, and he acted as chairman of a special Senate Sub-Committee which held a series of public hearings on the subject. In the field of overseas aid

generally, the Senator has been a zealous critic of evidences of waste and mismanagement. He has been particularly severe in his comments on the military aid programme, charging that it has enabled a number of Asian countries to maintain armed forces out of all proportion with any conceivable need or use for them.

Those who, like Walter Reuther, the President of the United Automobile Workers Union, call for the expenditure of many thousands of millions of dollars a year in overseas aid, seem to Mansfield to have let idealism run away with logic. His preference is for technical, rather than economic aid — "helping people to help themselves." Even here, he fears the growth of a self-perpetuating bureaucracy, and holds that the object of American technicians in Asia should be to "work themselves out of their jobs." And he adds, "Dollars are not the answer, nor is the Voice of America. We can win friends only by our actions."

Senator Mansfield does concede a role for economic aid in certain situations, such as India, but prefers to see it given in the form of loans rather than of outright grants. Nor does he view with sympathy talk of "soft" loans which need never be repaid. His assumption is that the loans will be repaid, as in the increase in the recipient country's productivity makes such repayment possible.

It sometimes seems to proponents of a large-scale American economic aid programme, that Mansfield is too ready to pour ice-cold water on their glowing visions. It is only fair to say, however, that he does not identify himself with the substantial number of Senators and Congressmen who regard overseas aid as a "global giveaway." In this, as in other matters, he stands near the centre in Congress — and, in a period in which the desire of politicians to be in the middle of the road is keen, he is likely to wield growing influence on the future course and shape of America's overseas aid programmes.

## Letters to the Editor

### INDIAN DECADE

Sir.—In your Editorial "Indian Decade," you admit that even Indian historians do not attempt to represent the Mutiny as a "War of Independence"; yet you use this term to describe that event and tell us that we should accept a fallacy rather than the historical truth because, to do otherwise, would not be "good manners"!

If Indians are wise and generous enough to give due credit to Britain in bringing about a peaceful transfer of power, Englishmen would also be wise to remember, with "a humble and a contrite heart," that had this transfer been made earlier, as an act of justice, and not because "Britain in its post-war exhaustion had no option but to relinquish power" partition, or at least its tragic results, might possibly have been avoided.

The saintly but astute Mahatma Gandhi decided upon a "non-violent struggle for independence" not only because, as a truly civilised man, he hated violence, but also because he knew he had a truly civilised Government and people to deal with. He knew the British would not use violent methods against non-violent people. His method would have failed with almost any government and people other than the British. Indians have gained their independence peacefully because they had a wise and saintly man as their leader, a civilised government and people as their opponents and two devastating world wars as "allies."

I yield to none in my admiration for the Indian people, and I believe that our mutual friendship is of the utmost importance to us both, and to the world. But friendship will not be fostered by a refusal to face facts,

nor by the deliberate falsification of history. There is still another angle from which these great events that have so deeply affected our two countries during the last decade might be viewed. After the decline of the Roman Empire had set in it took a thousand years for Europe to reach a state of civilisation and culture comparable to that of the Augustan "golden age." Those responsible for the decline and fall of that empire are far from being regarded now as benefactors of the human race. If some of the reports we hear are true it would seem that already many Indians are beginning wistfully to remember the days of the British Raj as another "golden age." Would we not be wise then to claim no more than our fair share of responsibility for its demise?

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Yours, etc.,

H. R. PELLY  
Winchester (Lieut-Colonel, retd.)

## CHINESE PUBLISHING

### From a Correspondent in Peking

THE Foreign Languages Press in Peking is a publishing house specialising in bringing out foreign language books and periodicals about people's China. Books are printed in Russian, English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Indonesian, Vietnamese, Burmese, etc.

From 1949 up to June 1957 books under 611 titles have been published, of which 21 percent are political and theoretical works, 41 percent cover general information about China; 12 percent are literature and art; and 26 percent are pictorials and illustrated albums. Apart from this, the Press publishes three periodicals — *People's China*, *China Pictorial* and *Chinese Literature*.

*People's China* is a periodical devoted to basic information about national construction in people's China and different aspects of Chinese life. It first appeared in 1950 as an English-language fortnightly. In 1951 a Russian edition was added, followed by a Japanese edition (monthly) in 1953.

*China Pictorial*, in colour and black and white, gives an account of life in China from month to month. It made its debut in Chinese in 1950 and has since appeared in the Russian, English, French, Spanish, German, Japanese, Indonesian and Vietnamese languages. The Hindi edition is in preparation and is scheduled for publication shortly.

*Chinese Literature*, at present published quarterly only

in English, is devoted to Chinese classical and modern literature, literary criticism, reviews and folk literature. It also reports on cultural activities in China. Reproduction of works of art are included in every issue.

The publications of the Press are distributed in some eighty countries and areas. They have been retranslated, reprinted, reviewed, broadcast over radio or widely used as source material. Available data already show that 86 titles of books and periodicals have been translated into 23 languages in more than 30 countries. For example, Mao Tse-tungs' works have been translated into 23 languages and Lu Hsun's *The True Story of Ah Q* into eight languages.

Letters from readers reach the Press regularly and in increasing numbers. While expressing their friendship for people's China and voicing their appreciation for the books issued by the Press, they also make candid criticism and suggestions for improvement. All these friendly criticisms are very helpful. The Press is making efforts to enlarge the range of topics and the number of languages in order to acquaint the foreign reader with the fundamental situation in China and her efforts in socialist construction. It hopes to play its part in contributing toward a better understanding and cultural interchange between China and the rest of the world.

## THE CHINESE STUDENT IN OXFORD

By T. L. Chen

The Chinese name for Oxford is "Niu-chin"; "Niu" being an ox, and "Chin" a ford. Such a bald translation of a name which holds a revered position among the academic seats of learning in the West, although unlike the careful and masterly transliterations of foreign names by Chinese experts in medieval times, yet accords with the Chinese principle of being "truthful (hsin), readable (ta) and elegant (ya)."

In Oxford Chinese students are so rare that we may justifiably describe ourselves in the phrase "Fêng-mao lin-chüeh," (phoenix feathers and unicorn's horns). If we should seek to live in a Chinese speaking world, our world would be small indeed, in fact we would be forced to fall back on American professors or English lecturers in Chinese. However as our interests are centrifugal rather than centripetal the lack of members in our little world does not unduly bother us.

For many years the western conception of China was that of a "pigtail and small-foot" land, of sampans and Fu Manchu, of "gunboat diplomacy" and opium operations, but now the scene has moved from fiction to fact, and the current writers on China are to be found not in the penny dreadfuls but in *The Times*, the *Manchester Guardian* and in the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

However, although China has at last become the subject of innumerable reports and white papers, we must realise that the role of the Chinese student who travels abroad is all important; he provides the human and cultural contact which Her Majesty's Stationery Office largely ignores. China is one of the four ancient countries in the world, and Chinese students wherever they live are obliged to act as pioneers for their fellow countrymen. A famous example was Hsüan-chuang who went to India during the seventh century. The cultural interaction which this man brought about between India and China cannot be over-emphasised, in him we find the Chinese saying "Shih erh pu-hsiu," (to die but not to decay) come true.

China is changing and the Chinese mind is on the move.

There is a well-known Chinese phrase which runs: "Ch'üng tè pien, tsé t'ung," (in an extremity one changes, and the change brings success). From the cultural perspective such a change means the steady and gradual absorption of the best in new ideas, but it cannot be too strongly stressed that the essential cultural heritage of China remains intact. For instance Buddhism was born in India, but it grew up in China; and it was due to Chinese thought that the initial mystical stimulus was built up into a philosophic body of thought.

However theory and practice often diverge! The role of the Chinese student abroad, as a type of unofficial representative of his country, is always bewildering. In the first place he is expected to make his contact through the medium of English; on this point his hosts are adamant. Then again he is compelled to deal in a world of inflections, of pronouns, of adverbial tunc, all of which are pushed humanely into the background in his own tongue. To his horror he even finds that he is expected to read his books backwards!

After he has passed the language hurdle then comes other problems . . . From the moment of his arrival at Oxford the world becomes chaotic; he is successively an "old man," a "chap," a "blighter," when struck dumb by these he is offered "a penny for your . . ." All very bewildering. Consultation with the dictionaries brings no enlightenment; as yet no one has sought to tell him of Eric Partridge. But there is a Chinese proverb which runs: "Sui-hsiang ju-su," (in a strange place one follows local customs); thus the nights become nightmares and reputable grammars yield to rhyming slang. And yet when in triumph his hard-won tags are sprung on new found friends, he is politely asked whether he was brought up in America — all very bewildering.

As a pioneer or an unofficial representative I don't think I shall be much of a success — I shall probably be regarded as a "damned foreigner" when I get home!

# BAMBOO IN THE LIFE OF CHINA

By S. J. Kost (Shanghai)

**A** CONSIDERABLE interest is being shown by the Chinese People's Government concerning the utilisation of bamboo as building material, for other industrial purposes, and as a substitute for timber, and iron and steel. Although bamboo is no less plentiful and is just as useful in other countries of South-East Asia, for the purpose of this article we shall be concerned particularly with bamboo in China.

Bamboo (*bambusa*, *arundinaria*, *phyllostachys*) is not a tree, but a gigantic tree-like grass, which attains the height of over 90 feet and some 10 inches in diameter. Its stem is upright and is practically uniform in diameter from root to top. The stem however consists of sections of uniform lengths, each about 8 - 10 inches long, and each node, or joint, is distinctly visible on the stem's polished-like surface. Inside the stem is hollow except at the joint which is a thick septum; when the septa are broken, the stem resembles a pipe.

Bamboo is one of the most rapidly growing plants in existence. Some plants have been noted to have grown six feet and more in one night, such fast process of growth is perceptible to the human eye; but other plants of the same species take a year to accomplish the same height. Generally a bamboo attains its full height in 45 days and is fully mature after three to four years. When a Chinese wants to remark upon the extraordinary fast growth of someone, he usually says: "He grows as fast as a bamboo after the rain."

While ordinarily the bamboo is green when growing, and turns yellow after it is out, among the curiosities of the bamboo world are the purple bamboo, the tortoise-marked bamboo, the Sampan wood bamboo (bright red when young), the purple or black bamboo, the golden bamboo, the solid bamboo, the square bamboo, and striped bamboo.

In China, bamboo grows practically everywhere to the south of Yellow River (Huang-ho), but it grows best where weather is warm and the soil damp. It is particularly plentiful in the valleys of the Yangtze and Pearl River. In North China it has been planted for decorative purposes, and there it can withstand the cold unprotected. It is not that bamboo has only just been discovered, or that it was neglected by people previously, far from it, its almost unlimited usefulness has always been known to Oriental people. Professor Porterfield, formerly of St. John's University, Shanghai, who has made bamboo his special study has said: "If bamboo and all things made of bamboo were suddenly transported out of China, the whole social order would be disrupted, the daily life of the people would become entirely disorganised, and the people reduced to a state of savagery and miserable dependence."

Indeed, in central and south China one can scarcely go without seeing bamboo whether in-doors or out. To the Chinese it is, perhaps, the most valuable product of their land. Deservedly it has been called "the universal provider" — the following are but a few of the purposes for which it has been used.

House construction: the heavier poles are used as pillars and rafters; the split cane sheets woven together

make the sides, or cut into halves make the floors; the doors and window shutters are made of the same material, fastened with bamboo thongs, and locked with a peculiar bolt of the same wood; the roof is composed of bamboo thatch, which is perfectly impervious. House furniture: chairs, tables, couches, bedsteads, ornaments, window-blinds, curtains, book-cases, shelves, etc. In the household: chopsticks, lamps and lanterns, ropes, baskets, brooms, brushes, frameworks of fans, images, cages for birds, combs, toilet boxes, washerwoman's clothes-lines, and so on. Bedding: sleeping mats are produced from strips of bamboo taken from the surface of the plant; pillow coverings are made in the same way, while the inside is stuffed with bamboo shavings.

Carrying poles, boatmen's pole, the rib for the sailor's mat-sail, and the sampan woman's awning for her small craft. The old man's staff, the blind man's stick, the rake of the farmer. In commerce there is the foot-rule of the carpenter and tailor, the measures for grains, tallies for checking cargo, as tickets for admission, as tokens in lieu of small change. Raincoats are made of bamboo leaves, sun hats and rain hats, helmets as protection against falling objects and for soldiers to guard against blows. The tubular structure of the bamboo pole adapts it admirably for use as waterpipes.

Instruments of torture and for flogging have been made from it: in China they used to say "so many bamboos" for "so many canes." In music, flutes, violins and pipes are made from bamboo and in war, banner handles, spears, saddle frames, etc.

The pulp can be prepared by soaking the bamboo for a length of time, then dried and made into sheets of paper. The handle of the pen is a fine bamboo tube; the vase for holding the pens is of the same material. The first books in China consisted of bamboo tablets held together by a string. Bamboo is used in medicine and as food.

Although among the countries of the world China is rated as one rich in forest resources, only five percent of the territory of the whole country is covered by forests, and their geographical distribution presents considerable difficulties to their utilisation. The greater majority of China's forests are in the north-east, better known in the West as Northern Manchuria, and in the regions of southwest thinly populated by national minorities; at least 30 percent of the forests are in regions with which communications are extremely difficult, if not impossible altogether. Also, it takes 30 to 40 years to grow a tree in place of the felled one. Therefore, the need for conserving forest resources and for finding a substitute for wood is of the utmost importance.

Iron and steel are even more important to the country than timber; badly needed in industries and in machine building. Although the production of both iron and steel is rapidly increasing and the annual output is already four to five times higher than the level attained before the Communist rule, it is still inadequate. But there is an old saying: "What iron is to the Englishman, bamboo is to the Chinese."

Annual production of bamboo in China is estimated at six million tons; its source of supply may well be considered inexhaustible. Bamboo possesses an uncommon combination of qualities: lightness, strength and durability. It is practically immune to attacks by insects, and withstands deterioration through rust or decay. Bamboo nails were recently discovered to have been in use in the Hu-chiu Pagoda in Suchow, the age of which is given to be 1,000 years, and they show no effect of either decay or rust. It is for all these reasons that the Chinese People's Government began paying attention to bamboo, as a substitute for timber, and for iron and steel.

A committee for research and utilisation of bamboo has been created jointly by Tsinghua University, Peking, the Ministry of Building and other organisations. In Shanghai extensive experiments have been carried out by Tungchi University for substituting some metalworks and building timber with bamboo in modern buildings. In the compound of this university a house has been built the entire framework of which is of bamboo; experiments are also being conducted in using bamboo in construction of bridges.

Bamboo bridges have been known in China since time immemorial; in Szechuan province bridges erected for pedestrian and horse and carriage traffic are a common occurrence. A bamboo bridge over Ming River is 230 metres long. In February 1957 in Nanking an experiment was carried out by getting a 10½-ton lorry, the largest in Nanking, to pass and re-pass over a bamboo bridge with satisfactory results. This experiment has prompted the Kiangsu Province Transportation Board to build another bamboo bridge on the Nanking-Hangchow highway. A pressure test carried out by the East-China Commission for Utilising Bamboo on a 10-metre length of a bamboo pole has shown that it can withstand up to a 21-ton load.

Bamboo is being used to replace iron railings on embankments, in parks, and elsewhere. In small communities bamboo pipes are used to carry water from mountain rivers or lakes to the community settlements, and for irrigation purposes to terraced fields. Being a non-conductor of electricity, bamboo is used as casing for bare electric cables and as protection for overhead cables on road crossings and over lanes and thoroughfares between buildings, satisfactorily replacing either wood casings or metal pipes.

Most structures for temporary use have always been made of bamboo, for which purpose "bamboo contractors" exist in all cities. Such contractors will erect any structure of bamboo poles, mats and thatch, on rental basis, which will be literally a "matter-of-hours" job, binding poles, the rafters, etc. with bamboo strips, and without using any metal nails. When no longer required, the structure will be removed with practically no loss of material and as useful in the next job as in the first. Such structures are usually erected for the use of travelling theatrical troupes, temporary storage of grains and materials, temporary labour barracks, kitchens, latrines, watch towers and meeting halls.

Bamboo is a great money, material, and labour saver when used for scaffoldings on building erections or repairs. In Shanghai, where there are the tallest buildings in China, boatswain chairs are not allowed even for minor repair work and bamboo scaffoldings are compulsory. They are successfully used on 14 - 15 storey buildings. Here, like in all bamboo constructions, bamboo poles are tied at the ends one to another with bamboo strips. The light weight of the

poles permits their easy hoisting by manual labour.

These are but a few of the uses for which bamboo is being put in industry, agriculture and commerce; it has other aspects in the life of Chinese also. It is a symbol of longevity — due to its remaining green throughout summer and winter and its extreme strength. If the bamboo is kind to the Chinese, he returns it with interest, as some of his best work is bestowed upon it, and it forms the *motif* in numerous works of art.

Bamboo had a tremendous influence on Chinese art, especially painting. In Chinese art bamboo symbolises moral purity and righteousness. It is a most graceful object, touching with rare beauty every few yards of the Chinese landscape, and has inspired many a poet and artist.

## Asian women in public life

Women leaders from 15 Asian countries meeting in Bangkok recently stressed that good citizenship starts at home, and agreed that duties to the family and community responsibilities were inseparable. All well-known figures in public life, the women leaders were attending a United Nations seminar on the civic responsibilities of Asian women and their greater participation in public life. The seminar reviewed educational, economic and health conditions, and religious attitudes that might help or hinder the role that Asian women play in their countries' affairs.

Voting and standing for election are part of citizenship, and the Bangkok meeting deplored the apathy prevalent among women in Asian countries in exercising their political rights. Economic bonds which prevent many women entering the public scene must be broken by giving them vocational training and opportunities for part-time work, it was stated in the final report.

Several speakers pointed out that in many cases Asian women have been given rights by law which have not, however, been translated into practice. Women have an important part to play in influencing public opinion, and men would have to be made fully aware of women's rights as citizens. It was emphasised that a great responsibility rests on educated women to ensure that customs and traditions do not continue to be a drag on the recognition of women's rights. A highlight of the meeting was the wide support given to family planning as necessary in several Asian countries. Delegates said that more information on this subject should be made available.

## New Governor of Singapore

Mr. W. A. C. Goode, C.M.G., Chief Secretary, Singapore is to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Singapore in succession to Sir Robert Black, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., who was recently appointed Governor of Hong Kong.

Mr. William Goode was born at Twickenham, Middlesex in June 1907, and educated at Oakham School and Worcester College, Oxford. He was first appointed to the Colonial Service in 1931 as a Cadet in Malaya. In 1939 he was appointed Assistant Financial Secretary to the Straits Settlements. While on leave in 1936 he was called to the Bar at Gray's Inn. He was a prisoner of war from 1942 to 1945. He served as a Principal Assistant Secretary in Malaya until 1949 when he was appointed Chief Secretary, Aden. He was appointed to his present post in 1953 and has on a number of occasions acted for the Governor of Singapore.



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## Recent Books

### BURMA'S MOMENTOUS DECISION

**The Union of Burma** by HUGH TINKER (Oxford UP, 42s.)

In 1947 the main political party in Burma, the Anti-Fascist Peoples Freedom League, was determined that Burma should become an independent sovereign republic and on the 4th January 1948 Burma achieved this end and severed connection with the British Commonwealth and Empire.

This book, published by Oxford UP for the Royal Institute of International Affairs, provides a fascinating and scholarly study, firstly of the events that led to this momentous decision and then of life in Burma during the first years of independence. For those readers whose knowledge of Burma is superficial or who are unacquainted with the history of Burma in recent times, I think it is essential for them to bear in mind throughout, two factors which in my opinion have contributed largely to the unhappy state of affairs that has existed in that country since the end of the war.

To begin with Burma, at the end of the war, was probably the most devastated country in the world. Invading

forces, Japanese, British, American, and Chinese fought for three and a half years over almost the whole length and breadth of Burma and left behind in their wake not only devastation on an unparalleled scale but also vast quantities of arms. The economy of the country was completely disrupted and even with peaceful conditions prevailing and a first class administration, many years must have elapsed before the country could recover. Dacoity, also, has always been a popular pastime, but with the introduction of modern arms in large numbers, it assumed a more sinister role.

Secondly, the assassination on the 19th July, 1947 of six of the political leaders including Aung San, the forceful head of the AFPFL, was an incident unique in history. It is difficult to assess, as the author informs us, of what might have happened if this murder had never taken place but, in sporting parlance, it was similar to taking on at the beginning of the season, a first class opponent with the second eleven. The opponent in this instance being a country racked by the ravages of war.

Questions are often asked as to why Burma left the Commonwealth or, why Burma did not remain a member under the same terms granted to India, or again whether it would have been difficult if in the early months after the war, His Majesty's Government had given a time limit within which Dominion status was to be achieved. These are exciting queries which provide much material for argument. One day perhaps it may be hoped that an attempt will be made to assemble the available information from all sources and commit it to paper but events are of too recent origin to allow of an objective view at present. It should be noted however that Burma made its decision to leave the Commonwealth before the plan for a republican India was devised and it is plausible to conjecture that the Burmese politicians in 1947 were of the opinion that India would follow the same course. Even, however, if that

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opinion were held, the ties of Burma with Britain were nothing like as strong as those of India: the fusion of Burma within the Empire had only taken place at the end of the last century, and in fact the last King of Burma died in exile as late as 1910. Further, the sweets of independence had been tasted, albeit slightly bitter, on the 1st August 1943 when Japan proclaimed Burma an Independent State and was recognised as such by the pro-Axis allies. Dominion status in 1947 still seemed to imply a measure of control even if it were represented only in the person of the Monarch.

I had the advantage of visiting Burma with my wife in January 1956, as guests of the Burma Government, and can confirm much of what the author has written on the troubles that have beset the country since 1948 as well as the strides that have been made in economic and cultural fields. We travelled far and wide during our visit and were greatly impressed by the esteem and affection held by the peoples of Burma that we met, Shans, Kachins, Karens, Burmese, for U Nu, who in the last few months has resumed office as Prime Minister. The expressions of friendship for Britain, undoubtedly genuine, also impressed us and I am sure that this book will do much to strengthen the bonds that exist between the two countries. I commend it to all interested in Burma and to all lovers of that country and even to those who are not lovers but who have spent some time there.

SIR HUBERT RANCE

**The Scholars.** A translation of *Ju-lin Wai-shin* by YANG HSIEN-YI and GLADYS YANG. (Foreign Languages Press, Peking. London: Colletts. 18s. 6d.)

Western orientalists have for more than three centuries devoted their energies to making available in translation major works of Chinese poetry, prose and history. But, until very recent times, little has been done to make the West aware of the wealth of fiction and drama awaiting the earnest student. A curtailed version of *Hung-lou-mêng*, English and other translations of *Shui-hu-chuan*, *Chin-p'ing-mei*, and *San-kuo-chin-yen-i*, have indeed seen the light, but until the publication in 1953 of Richard Gregg Irwin's well-documented study, *The Evolution of a Chinese Novel*, the West knew all too little of Chinese fictional output.

*The Scholars* will prove as stimulating to English readers as the original has been to generations of Chinese. It is not only the first Chinese novel recognised as brilliant social satire, it is more manageable both in length and number of characters than the works quoted above. It is also one of those rare works of dramatic fiction which, written to prove a point, achieve more than was originally intended by the author. Even in Paris, London, New York, we may meet every day men like those who people the pages of Wu Ching-tzu's masterpiece; we hear the language they use as we go about our twentieth-century duties, and we realise once again that human nature is the same the world over. Which of us has not eloquently denounced the political and social evils under which we struggle? But have we done it with the irony, satire and wit of eighteenth-century Wu Ching-tzu and his so human characters? Even those "old-timers" who still cherish the memory of some particular scholar-official who inducted them into the mysteries of Chinese literature and philosophy will read the book with many a backward glance along the lanes of memory to recall a prototype.

The translation is good, colloquial and unpretentious.

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All students of Chinese life should read this first effort to make a brilliant work available to a wider public.

NEVILLE WHYMANT

**Adventure with two Passports** by W. BYFORD-JONES

(*Robert Hale, 21s.*)

Colonel Byford-Jones's book is worth reading for its accounts of his interviews with Colonel Nasser, Mr. Ben-Gurion and the Jordanian Major-General Nawar. We are not told whether the author took assiduous shorthand notes throughout these interviews — that with Colonel Nasser finished at 2 a.m. — but the effect produced is convincing. They are, so far as one can judge, trustworthy accounts of what was said; yet, again and again, the author's comments on what passed reveal only too clearly why the British are unpopular in so many circles abroad.

In spite of the author's reiterated conviction that Colonel Nasser is Britain's enemy, the picture of him which emerges is far from unattractive. The picture of the author which emerges is a good deal less so. One wonders what the helpful "American oil tycoon" will think of Colonel Byford-Jones's description of him as suffering from "gypy tummy" every time he hears gun-fire; and it may be asked why Ben Gurion is "Mr." and Nasser is "Colonel" but Nawar just "Nawar"; why King Hussein's palace guards (on account of their costume, not their bearing) "seem to have stepped right out of a musical comedy" — a remark one can't imagine the author making about the Grenadier Guards. Who else, granted the privilege of taking coffee with a young queen would offer the gratuitous opinion that her costume would have looked better on a blonde?

"I did not want to approach Nawar direct," says Col. Byford-Jones, "for my study of his portraits had told me that he would be a tricky customer to deal with"; and then, Colonel Hatim, "a willing tool of Nasser," wore a shirt of finest nylon, a tie and handkerchief of pure silk, "yet it was whispered to me that he was openly advocating the Soviet line. . ." Why "yet"?

The whole book repays careful reading; not least for the unintentional light it throws on Britain's virtual isolation in the Middle East.

RICHARD ROWE

**Good Food from India** by SHANTI RANGARAO (*Muller, 18s.*)

Indian food has become very popular in European countries over the last few years, and here is a book that will help to bring it into the ordinary western kitchen. The usual English idea of curry is stewed meat with a little added curry powder (most often stale). The lucidity of Shanti Rangarao's explanation of the recipes makes complicated dishes simple to prepare. There is more to Indian food than curry, as the term is generally understood in Britain, and there are many exciting recipes, sweet and savoury, in this book which any good cook will enjoy making.

The only snag is that many of the ingredients (like jeera seeds, cardomoms, til seeds, and other spices) are not easily obtainable in western countries; and if they are it is usually only in large cities that they can be bought. But this does not detract from the usefulness and pleasure of this book.

E.C.

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# CHANG-KIEN

## Chinese Diplomat and Explorer

By James H. Jacques

HERE is no more romantic story than that of Chang-kien, the man who "pierced the void" and opened up trade and communication between China and the peoples of Europe and Western Asia in the second century B.C. He it was who laid the foundations of that organised traffic, chiefly in silk and iron, that for centuries flowed along the "Great Silk Road" from China to the later Roman Empire and the states of Medieval Europe. He was the Marco Polo of antiquity; and the great Venetian explorer of the thirteenth century was but carrying on the work of making the East and the West known to each other, that had been begun fourteen or fifteen hundred years before his time by Chang-kien.

Chang-kien was born during one of the great periods of Chinese history. Half a century previously, Tsin-shih-hwang-ti had laid the foundations of the future Chinese Empire and had consolidated his work by building the Great Wall as a defensive barrier against the Huns. His death in 210 B.C. was followed by a short period of anarchy; and then the early emperors of the Han Dynasty took up the work which he had begun. By curbing the power of the great feudal lords, these early Han rulers made of China a strong unified kingdom. Adopting the cavalry tactics of their nomadic enemies, and enjoying an advantage over them in the superior weapons produced by their more civilised craftsmen, they were now able to meet the Huns, even in the open country to the north of the Great Wall, on more or less equal terms. The final issue of the struggle was to remain in doubt for some time, for the Huns too had consolidated their power under the leadership of their great chief, or Shanyu, Moadun, and were now well organised and disciplined. For the Chinese, however, a period of expansion had begun which was to result in the establishment of a vast Chinese Empire, stretching far into Central Asia. It was mainly during the reign of Wu-ti, the sixth emperor of the Han line, that this expansion took place; and one of his principal agents was Chang-kien.

In addition to their military measures, the Chinese made full use of their diplomatic skill in their long struggle with the Huns. By this means, they were enabled to detach many of the subject tribes from their allegiance to the Hunnish rulers, and thus to weaken their power considerably. In order to gain a full understanding of the military and diplomatic strategy of the Han emperors, it is necessary to form a picture of the state of affairs then existing in Central and East Asia, in so far as this can be done on the strength of the evidence now available.

It would seem that, as early as 3000 B.C., the steppes of what is now Russian Turkestan were occupied by tribes of Indo-European peoples, ancestors of the Scythians and Sarmatians of Greek and Roman history. At some time prior to the dawn of history, these people succeeded in taming the wild horse, thus becoming the creators of the "horse culture" that in later times dominated the whole extent of the Eurasian Steppe and overflowed into the

civilised countries bordering on it to the west, east and south. At first, the horse was used only as a draught animal; the earliest intruders from the steppes transported their goods and families in waggons, and fought from horse-drawn war-chariots. Moving and fighting in this way, the first Indo-Europeans came over the Iranian Plateau and through the passes into North-west India. The Shang, who ruled in China during the greater part of the second millennium B.C., if they were not themselves Indo-Europeans, had at least learned from them the use of the war-chariot.

Later on, the Indo-Europeans of the Steppe learned to ride as well as to drive the horse, and evolved the way of life of the nomadic horseman of the steppes, as it has persisted throughout the ages from that remote period down to our own times. Abandoning the war-chariot in favour of the more mobile cavalry troop, they were now, by the celerity of their movements, the unexpectedness and impetuosity of their attacks, and the hopelessness of all attempts at pursuit, enabled to strike terror into the hearts of the sedentary peoples living on the fringes of the Steppe, and to exert an increasing pressure outwards in all directions. To the north, their advance was stayed by the impenetrable Siberian Forest; but towards the east, west and south, they overran vast stretches of territory.

In the east, Indo-Europeans had conquered and settled in the region of the Tarim Basin, the country formerly known as Kashgaria and in more recent times as Sinkiang; and one of their tribes, the Yueh-chih, is found in the Han period in close proximity to the Huns, in what is now Outer Mongolia. It would seem that in those early days the drift of folk movements across the steppes was from west to east. In historic times the main current has always been in the opposite direction, from east to west. Two main factors operated to produce this momentous turn of the tide. In the first place, the Turanian peoples of East Asia took over the "horse culture" of the Indo-Europeans, and turned the horse against his former lords in a long struggle for the mastery of the Steppe. Secondly, the consolidation of the Han Empire of China behind the Great Wall, by making it impossible for the Huns to overrun China, naturally turned their faces to the west. Once their advance in that direction had started, it did not stop until they were almost within sight of the Atlantic Ocean from their last camp on the plains of Northern France.

All traces of the original Indo-European languages have long ago vanished from Central Asia. Turki is now the main language of Kashgaria, Chinese being spoken only by the official class in the eastern parts of the country. Turkish, too, in its various forms and dialects, constitutes the everyday tongue of the great majority of the modern population of Russian Turkestan, though Russian is now, of course, in use as an official language, in this region. The conquest of Kashgaria by Maodun and his Hunnish hordes in the third century B.C. is the first recorded instance of the defeat of

an Indo-European people by the Turanians, to whom they had taught the art of horsemanship. It marks an epoch in human history. From that date until the expansion of Europe by sea during the Age of Discovery, the Indo-Europeans were everywhere on the defensive; the territories subject to their control were constantly shrinking in extent. They were followed into Iran, into India, even into Europe, by hordes of Turanian horsemen; until finally the cutting of the land routes to China and the Far East forced them to turn the enemy's flank by sea, and gave birth to the great movement that resulted in the discovery and colonisation of America, Australia, New Zealand and other lands to which the sea was the pathway.

The conquest of Kashgaria by Maodun and the subsequent irruptions of the Huns into that area gave rise to a mass migration of peoples from that region. Two tribes of Indo-European nomads, who had hitherto remained in undisturbed possession of the steppe country to the east of the Tarim Basin, the Yueh-chih and the Wu-sun, after weakening each other by an intertribal war, abandoned their territory to the Huns and moved off with their families and herds to seek new grazing grounds. The Yueh-chih moved westwards across the steppes into Dzungaria, where, by driving out the Sakas, another Indo-European tribe, they started a further movement of peoples that finally welled over the mountain passes into India. The Wu-sun took refuge with the Huns and were permitted to graze their herds with those of their overlords. About 160 B.C. the Wu-sun, with the help of the Huns, again attacked their old enemies, the Yueh-chih, and, driving them towards the south-west out of Dzungaria, settled in that region themselves.

When, in 138 B.C., the emperor Wu-ti decided to attack the Huns, he sent Chang-kien on his first journey towards the west, with the object of enlisting the aid of the Yueh-chih in this new campaign against their old enemies. Chang-kien set out at the head of an embassy over a hundred strong, most of the members of which perished before reaching China again. In the early stages of their journey, the ambassadors were captured by the Huns, who refused to allow them to proceed, and kept them in captivity for more than ten years. During the second half of this period the Chinese, who had given up all hope of ever again seeing Chang-kien and his companions, were almost constantly at war with the Huns. In spite of this fact, the envoys were not harmed, and Chang-kien was even permitted to marry a Hunnish wife, by whom he had several children. Finally, however, he managed to escape; but instead of returning to China immediately, he travelled westwards and spent a year amongst the Yueh-chih in Sogdia, just north of the River Oxus. The political situation had changed during the years of Chang-kien's captivity. The Yueh-chih had embarked on the conquest of Bactria, to the south of the Oxus and, though they received him hospitably, refused his offer of an alliance with China. Collecting what information he could, he returned home to report on his mission. He chose the southern route along the northern flank of the Nan-shan Mountains, hoping in this way to avoid the Huns. But Chang-kien was unlucky; he fell again into the hands of his former captors. This time, however, he escaped at the end of a year in the confusion caused by the death of the Hun Shanyu, Günchen, in 126 B.C., and finally reached home after an absence of twelve years.

Apparently it was felt that Chang-kien's achievements as an explorer more than counterbalanced the failure of his

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diplomatic mission; for he was made a Marquis and promoted to the post of Imperial Chamberlain. He brought back with him from the West and introduced into China two very important agricultural products, alfalfa and the grape-vine, both of which must have come from Iran. From this time too, Iranian influences are traceable in the development of Chinese armour and military strategy.

In Bactria Chang-kien found the people using bamboo and cloth which he believed had come from South China by way of Burma and India. This led him to speculate on the possibility of opening up organised trade by this southern route, which would be free from all interference by the Huns. Though the attempts made to carry out this project met with failure, they led to the incorporation in the Chinese Empire of Yun-nan and adjacent territories. The indirect results of Chang-kien's journey were thus both far-reaching and important.

Some time after his return home Chang-kien was put in command of an army operating against the Huns; but he did not make a successful general. He was, in fact, condemned to death for allowing himself to be defeated, and only obtained a reprieve by paying a large indemnity. He petitioned the Emperor to be allowed to retrieve his character by leading a diplomatic mission to the Wu-sun tribesmen, with the object of persuading them to reoccupy the territory to the east of Lop-nor from which they had been expelled by the Huns in 121 B.C. Since then, this region had remained uninhabited, and the idea of having it occupied by friendly tribes naturally appealed to the Emperor, who acceded to Chang-kien's request.

The latter set out on his travels again in 115 B.C. at the

head of a large escort. He found, however, that the Wu-sun were rather sceptical about the value of Chinese promises of support, and they refused the proffered alliance. From the Wu-sun territory Chang-kien sent out members of his expedition to visit and explore India, Bactria, Parthia and the Yueh-chih territories. He himself returned to China without waiting for these emissaries to report back to him. They returned home later with valuable information which added much to China's knowledge of her neighbours to the west. Chang-kien himself brought back a number of Wu-sun tribesmen to act as guides and interpreters. These men were hospitably entertained and, after a stay of some years in China, returned to their tribes with a good account of Chinese civilisation and hospitality.

Once again, in spite of the apparent failure of his diplomacy, Chang-kien was well received by the Emperor and given further promotion. He died within a year of his return from this second mission.

It is worthy of note that Chang-kien did not travel westward by the usual trade route, but traversed the steppe country far to the north and reached the West by way of the Dzungarian Gate. This choice was dictated by the diplomatic nature of his first mission, which necessitated his making contact with the Yueh-chih, then settled to the south-west of Dzungaria.

After his death the Chinese extended their influence and conquests towards the west, until, for a short period, the frontiers of the Roman and Chinese Empires were practically conterminous. It was Chang-kien's achievement to have accomplished the pioneer work that made this expansion possible.

## NATIVE COUNCILS IN THE SOLOMONS

*By a Special Correspondent*

NATIVE Councils (or local Government Councils) are doing excellent work throughout the British Solomon Islands Protectorate. The Administrative District of the Central Solomons includes the large islands of Guadalcanal and Santa Ysabel, the smaller island groups of Florida (Nggela) and the Russell Islands, and the individual islands of Savo, Rennell and Bellona. The total population of the Central District is about 30,000.

The first Councils in Central District were established on Florida and Savo in 1948. Some progress was made, but the theory of local government by nominated or elected members was an entirely new idea to people who were accustomed to having their consent asked by their chief, after full discussion in the village, to any proposed communal action, or to obeying clearly defined Government instructions. It was necessary at first to have Council members nominated by Government Headmen, who had some understanding of the functions of a Council. Councils are now outgrowing this stage, and people in sub-districts are agreeing on the nomination of their own representatives for approval and appointment by the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific. This approximates to a free election, as the decision is a majority decision in the sub-district concerned, and approval is always given except in a few cases where it is clear that the nominee would not be

respected on the Council or would be ineffective as a member for the sub-district which he is intended to represent or would be unsuitable for other reasons.

The power of the Native Councils are set out in the Native Administration Regulation 1953, under which a Council may make and pass resolutions for the welfare and good government of the native inhabitants of the district for which it is established, in respect of any matters affecting purely native administration within the district. Councils make regulations about food and water supplies, the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges; hygiene and sanitation and mosquito control; the performance of communal work; the control of livestock, the care of children and old people, fishing and fishing rights, education and markets. They also interest themselves in better methods of labour recruitment and deliveries of mail to isolated areas. They can define and regulate native customs which they think should be recognised, and if these are not inconsistent with good morals or the Laws of the Protectorate, they become law in the area of the Council making the Resolution. Council Resolutions are submitted through the District Commissioner to the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, for his approval.

The major part of any Council's revenue comes from direct taxation upon adult males. The tax rate is fixed in

accordance with each Council's recommendations, which are based on the amount of tax that from their personal knowledge of the sub-district they feel their people can afford to pay. The tax is payable each year and the amount varies from £2 on the fertile island of Savo to 10s. in the poorer parts of the Guadalcanal bush, an almost inaccessible mountainous area densely covered with rain forest which produces only a limited quantity of native tobacco and root crops. Additional revenue comes from interest on the Council's bank deposits, Native Court fines and fees, and dog licences.

The activities of the Guadalcanal Council can be taken as an example of the work of other Councils in the Central Solomons District. It represents approximately 1,900 people all the people on the large island of Guadalcanal (except for 21 villages at the eastern end of the island who are allied by origin and custom with the Malaita people and have their own Council, the Marau-Haumba Council).

The Guadalcanal Council is composed of the President and Vice President and 23 members. The Council has chosen as its President, District Headman J. C. Vouza, G.M., M.B.E., formerly a sergeant in the Armed Constabulary, who was awarded the George Medal for extraordinary courage as a member of the Solomon Islands Defence Force during the 1939-45 war. Taken prisoner by the Japanese, tied to a tree and questioned, Vouza was repeatedly bayoneted in the face, neck and chest but refused to give information. He escaped some hours later, made his way unseen through the bush and rejoined his unit.

The Guadalcanal Council's total revenue in 1957 is estimated at £2,870, an increase of £130 on actual revenue in 1956. At the end of 1956 the Council's bank holding was £6,200, and their total estimated expenditure in 1957 is £5,840. This expenditure includes payment of wages of native teachers in Council schools, nurses, Council dressers, warders and wardresses for people sentenced by Native Courts to communal work, Council clerks, Native Court Justices, (who receive an honorarium for their activities) Court Clerks, Court and Council messengers and Village Chiefs who receive 10s. a month for maintaining law and order in the villages. In addition to this annually recurrent expenditure, the Council's special expenditure in 1957 includes the construction of rest houses for Council dignitaries while visiting Honiara; the provision of funds to complete Native Court buildings; completion of partly constructed Council hospitals and the building of hospital dispensaries; and rebuilding and maintenance of the two leper settlements which the Council has established on Guadalcanal to supplement the Government Leprosarium at Tete on the north coast.

Council hospitals consist of a dispensary, dressers' quarter and male and female wards, and are staffed by Government-paid dressers and sub-dressers paid by the Council. All dressers are trained at the Central Government Hospital near Honiara.

The Council has established a school at Roroni on the northern coast of Guadalcanal and is building a new school this year in the Talise sub-district on the remote and precipitous southern coast of the island. Radio receivers are being bought for Council stations at the isolated villages of Duidui, Valasi, Malekuna and Nomaniboso in the Eastern Guadalcanal Bush.

Council Resolutions are enforced by Native Courts, of

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which there are 10 on Guadalcanal. The Courts at this stage of their development have a limited jurisdiction and all their decisions are subject to review by a District Commissioner. The Bench is presided over by a Court President, who must have at least two Justices sitting with him. The District Headman prosecutes. Council messengers act as Court orderlies and a Court Clerk records proceedings in each case, issues receipts for fines and fees paid, and maintains all records including register of births and deaths. The Court Clerk also takes a census from time to time in his own area and the figures recorded are used in assessing the need for agricultural and educational development and the provision of adequate medical supplies. Typical cases which come within the Courts' Criminal Jurisdiction are minor assaults, wilful damage to private property, petty larceny, adultery (which is a criminal offence by local legislation, in order to prevent feuds and personal reprisals) and non-compliance with minor legislation proposed by the Council and approved by the High Commissioner. Civil actions taken before Native Courts include offences against native custom, settlement of argument over deceased estates, land disputes, minor claims by debtors, and damage done by livestock.

Councils ask for and receive constant guidance, advice and training from District Commissioners, particularly in framing their estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year, and in deciding what projects they can afford to undertake with the funds at their disposal.

Now that the early stages are over, and the work is being understood by the people, it is expected that they will want to launch out into further Local Government activities.

# Economics and Trade

## CHINA'S FOREIGN TRADE

By *Yeh Chi-chuang*

Minister of Foreign Trade, Peking

CHINA'S foreign trade for 1957 is planned at a rather lower level than the actual volume reached in 1956. All the same, it will bring the total of foreign trade under the whole first 5-year plan to 6.4 percent above the set target.

The figures aimed at for 1957 are 9,955 million yuan (imports: 4,755 million yuan; exports: 5,200 million yuan). This is 8.4 percent less than the actual volume last year. The reduction is due to the drop in agriculture in 1956 in some areas as a result of natural calamities. With the fulfilment of this plan for 1957, imports in the whole first five-year plan will be 8 percent above the original targets and exports 4.8 percent above, making a total overfulfilment of 6.4 percent.

Foreign trade is, of course, an inseparable part of China's national economy as a whole and must fit in with it and coordinate with the pace of the national economic growth. In the past few years 75 percent of China's exports have been farm produce and industrial goods manufactured from farm products is limited by the area of arable land and influenced and other industrial products. Increase of agricultural products are limited by the area of arable land and influenced by natural calamities. With growing purchasing power by the Chinese people, the home market, too, places an increasing demand on the main agricultural produce.

The State Council has made the following provisions. Commodities such as grain and oil, which are vital for the nation as a whole and the people's living standards, may be exported only in limited quantities when in short supply in the home market. Other commodities, though they bear

directly on living standards, may be partially diverted from the home market to the export field if they are not so badly needed at home. Commodities which are not so needed by the people in general and whose export does not affect the home market should be given priority in export and only surpluses of these should be disposed of on the home market.

These principles laid down by the Central People's Government, take the long range interests as well as the present needs of the people into consideration. China's export volume is fixed mainly in accordance with these principles.

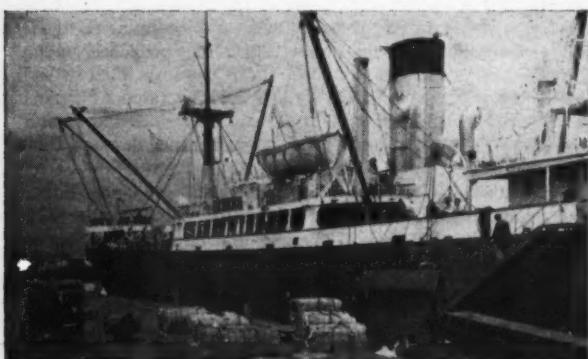
With the greater demand for pork at home in the latter part of 1956 the originally planned exports were reduced by 50,000 tons. Similarly, this year's grain exports have been cut by 540,000 tons, vegetable oil by 100,000 tons, pork and live pigs by 85,000 tons and cotton yarn by 12,209 bales from the original targets.

Exports of minerals, industrial goods, handicrafts and various local specialities have been increased so that China's export trade this year will still maintain a considerable level to meet the demands for industrial equipment and materials for industrial and agricultural production and also the import of other necessary items.

As China's industry grows and the living standards of the people rise, agricultural products will form a falling proportion of China's total exports while minerals and industrial goods will rise. China is preparing gradually to increase its export of minerals, animal products, aquatic products, tropical and subtropical fruits and plants, industrial and handicraft goods, in addition to such traditional exports as silk and tea. Whenever possible it will also export certain types of machinery and whole sets of industrial equipment to meet foreign demand; and where possible, too, it will export goods processed from imported raw materials.

In the past few years 60 percent of China's imports have been made up of machinery and various kinds of equipment. The rest have been metals, raw materials for the chemical industry, cotton, rubber, chemical fertilisers, medicines, sugar, kerosene, etc. On the whole this has corresponded to the needs of the national economy.

This year exports are being reduced. To keep a balance in trade imports, too, will be less than last year. Imports of general machinery are being cut. Therefore apart from such industrial equipment as is required by the first five-year



Syrian Cotton to China being unloaded at Shanghai

plan import of raw materials for industrial and agricultural production and market goods this year will be increased compared with last year. As the nation's economy grows, there will be a proportionate decrease in the import of machinery and equipment and a proportionate increase in the import of certain kinds of raw materials and consumer goods. This change is necessary, reasonable and will come about steadily.

China used to be a grain importing country before liberation but a few years after, she began exporting grain. This year it plans to export 780,000 tons. This is necessary particularly in barter trade. For example, China has carried on barter trade with Ceylon, China exporting rice in exchange for Ceylon's rubber.

China has imported a considerable amount of scientific apparatus and chemicals for research. The average annual import of scientific apparatus in the six years ending 1957 is 10 times greater than the average of the few years just before liberation. This year it is expected to reach 98 million yuan.

China plans to import 500,000 watches this year. They are in demand among China's engineers, scientists, government workers, doctors, teachers and others.

China's major policy is to develop trade with all countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. We shall continue to consolidate and develop our trade with the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, which last year made up 75 percent of China's total foreign trade. This is a fundamental and unswerving policy. The trade with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, based on equality and mutual benefit, through which China has received up-to-date machinery to equip large industrial enterprises, plays an important role in the country's socialist construction.

Based on these same principles, China is also building up its trade with the Asian and African countries. The foundations for such trade will steadily expand with the economic growth of China and the Asian-African countries.

Trade between China and the Asian-African countries has shown a notable increase in recent years. The Asian-African countries are striving for peace and independent national economies. Some have traditional trade ties with China and the restoration of these ties is necessary both to China and to them. China will continue to develop trade with Asian-African countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

China has all along taken a positive attitude towards trade with the West, which has developed year after year despite the United States embargo and US pressure on certain western countries to adopt a discriminative trade policy towards China.

The recent relaxation of the embargo by Britain, Denmark, Norway, the Netherlands, France, Belgium, West Germany, Italy, Portugal and Luxembourg is a positive step in developing normal foreign trade. But these countries have not entirely abandoned their discriminative trade policy. They retain more than 200 major items on their embargo lists. This is still a big obstacle to developing normal trade with them.

Facilities such as exist in China's barter trade with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, including mutually



Shanghai Port: loading frozen eggs on the SS "Glen Ean" bound for England

beneficial transport arrangements, payment of accounts and negotiation on any difficulties, are not yet available in trading with the western countries. The operation of the embargo has limited China's contacts with the western countries and it will take some time for China to find out the production, technique, special features and supply capacities as regards particular commodities of these countries.

However, the prospects of trade with the western countries are bright, so long as these countries take active steps to expand trade.

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## Minister visits China

MR. F. J. ERROLL, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, has left London for a several weeks' visit to China. He is the first British Minister to go to China since the end of the War and the news about his trip has been greeted by British business circles interested in developing trade with China.



Mr. Erroll who is 43, obtained an Honours Degree in the Sciences Tripos Mechanical at Trinity College, Cambridge, and prior to his appointment to the Ministry of Supply in April 1955, had a successful career as engineer and active Director of several leading companies. He is a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers and an associate member of the

credit. Although the "exceptions procedure" introduced last year mitigated the situation just a little and enabled the execution of some orders which would have otherwise been lost, it was but a drop in the ocean.

China's imports from all sources in 1956 were valued at £770m. Britain's share was £10.8m or 1.7%. The bulk of this business was in wool tops with some chemicals and pharmaceuticals; but the engineering, electrical and capital goods exports were so negligible as to be unworthy of mention.

The new situation was quickly exploited by the Sino-British trade committee which represents the major interests in the industrial and commercial fields. They lost no time in inviting the Chinese to send a technical mission to the United Kingdom, an invitation which was quickly accepted by the appropriate authorities in Peking. The first part of this mission, consisting of seven textile machinery experts arrived in London in early September and have already visited a considerable number of relevant manufacturers. The main party, consisting of nearly thirty technicians and staff and led by Dr. Ch'i Chao-ting, the vice-chairman and executive head of the China Committee for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) arrives early October and extensive plans are afoot to enable them to visit a wide variety of industry so that they will return to China well briefed on what Britain can supply.

On top of these plans, it has been announced that Mr. F. J. Erroll, parliamentary private secretary to the Board of Trade intends to spend three exploratory weeks in China this month with a view to studying first hand Britain's trade prospects there. The formation of a high level council by the Sino-British trade committee with Sir Hugh Beaver, president of the Federation of British Industries as its head is another indication of the earnest view taken. Thus, we have government, commerce and industry all playing an important part in the drive and closely collaborating therein.

What are the prospects? Many figures quoting the China trade potential have been bandied about but at this stage must be merely guesswork. And much depends upon China's internal problems. A bad harvest, for example will have a salutary effect on what she can afford, and her second five year plan, due to start in January, 1958, is geared to such eventualities. But it might be reasonable to suppose that all else being equal Britain could double her exports in little over a year. This would be a satisfactory start. But despite the frequently quoted figures of China's sterling holdings and earnings, it is important to remember much of these are earmarked for payments elsewhere. For example, China's trade deficit of some £10m. sterling with Switzerland is settled in that currency. Moreover, it is at the moment doubtful if there are great prospects of China's exports to Britain increasing to any degree.

Any increase in our trade, therefore, is governed mainly by two factors. Firstly, assuming it is possible, China will buy capital equipment needed to progress her second five year plan. The other point is how much can we gain at the expense of our European competitors? Even now France and Germany are actively exploring business possibilities in Peking by means of visiting trade delegations. And both countries have been visited by Chinese missions.

To meet this competition there is one important factor other than the usual ones of price and delivery. It has been known for some time that China is likely to ask for credit terms. This particular aspect has been pushed to the fore

Institution of Mechanical Engineers. He is, therefore, well qualified not only to discuss commercial policy problems with the Chinese authorities but also to ascertain Chinese industrial requirements while at the same time in a position of giving authoritative information on the British engineering industry.

Mr. Erroll knows Asia from personal experience, he served during the War in India and Burma, and was also a member of an all-Party Delegation to Burma in January 1950. He was appointed Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade in November 1956.

The Minister's visit to China coincides with the arrival of a Chinese technical trade mission in London.

## China Trade Prospects

*From A Special Correspondent*

THERE is ample evidence that Britain has no intention of being left behind in the newly awakened trade drive in China, a drive not by any means confined to British industry. The western powers see in China the possibilities of immediate, substantial business with long term prospects of no mean order.

The post war story of China trade is, by and large, an unhappy one. Britain, quick to recognise the present regime when it took over found itself dragging it feet behind the USA. Then came the Korean war and the embargo. Whatever its uses at the time, it had long outlived its usefulness when it was finally eased earlier this year and opened new possibilities for British manufacturers who had been looking at it wistfully for some time. Her Majesty's government were well aware of the frustration and their stand at the Chincos deliberations and their insistence there on getting the embargo list contracted to its present form was to their everlasting

by the recent necessity to curtail overseas spending and it appears likely that the country or countries offering medium term credits will reap the bulk of the harvest. If British industry enters the field on this basis, it will involve the participation of the Exports Credit Guarantee department but that body's attitude has not yet been publicly indicated.

But China's trade with the sterling area shows a surplus and given no unknown factors, Britain's chances should be bright enough. She was quick to indicate her interest and various industries, either directly or through their trade associations have gone out of their way to underline this.

On the Chinese side, there is no lack evidence that they have welcomed the new situation. Visas for visits to China have been readily granted although at this stage exploratory individual visits are chancy, unless a definite invitation has been extended. Those going on "tourist" visas in the hope that they would contact the correct authority can be disappointed.

But all in all, the tempo is increasing. This is all to the good and even if, in many cases, no immediate business results, the foundation for future trade is being well and truly laid.

## KARAMAI — China's New Oil Town

By *Hsu Chien*

KARAMAI, the richest oil field discovered so far in China, will play an important role in China's economic construction. Normal production is scheduled to begin next month (November). Up to the present tens of thousands of tons of crude oil have been obtained from Karamai's test-wells.

A new oil town is rising in Karamai where only a vast uninhabited wilderness existed a couple of years ago. A working force now numbering 15,000 include skilled workers and technicians from older oilfields, geology graduates from the colleges, demobilized army men who have had a short course in geological prospecting, and workers and peasants from the Sinkiang minority region. The invasion of personnel started after the first drilling team of some 30 young pioneers struck oil on the morning of October 30, 1955.

The influx of supplies including seamless pipes, huge transformers, up-to-date turbo-drilling machines and other equipment have been arriving from different parts of China, the Soviet Union, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Sweden, and other countries. The activity of the geological workers is now spreading over an extensive area of several thousand square kilometres in and around Karamai.

This immense oil-bearing district lies in the Dzungarian Basin, a treeless sandy plain between the Tien Shan and the Altai mountain ranges, at the tip of north-west China. Even up to July last year there was no permanent structure whatever. Today, well laid-out office buildings, repair works, living quarters and other structures with a total floor space of over 100,000 square metres, have been erected to replace such temporary shelters as tents and dugouts, despite the shortage of water and clay and the difficulties involved in bringing bricks, timber and other building materials from afar. Shops, banking, post and tele-communications offices, bookstores, hospitals, schools, creches and clubs are already serving the population, which is nearing thirty thousand. A 42-kilometre water pipe leading from the Manass River is supplying enough water for industrial and household needs.

Upwards of 7,000 building workers are undertaking various projects in Karamai. By the end of this year a 3,000-kilowatt power station, a laboratory specialised in radioactive well logging, new repair works and three hundred more blocks of housing will be completed. More water piping will be laid and new motor roads will total 300 kilometres. Work on a 150-kilometre oil pipe leading to the refinery at the older Tushantze oil field to the south is to

begin in 1958 to facilitate the shipment of Karamai's crude oil. Preliminary surveying is being carried out for a railway, about 530 kilometres in length, which is to start from Tushantze on the Lanchow-Sinkiang Railway under construction, pass through Karamai and Uerho (another promising oil-bearing district, 100 kilometres northeast of Karamai) and end at Altai, a region rich in forest and mineral resources. The railway is expected to be completed in 1961.

A preparatory committee was set up last month to establish this year the municipality of Karamai, which will comprise the Karamai district and its surrounding areas covering 5,000 square kilometres in all. The municipal administration will undertake the construction of the new

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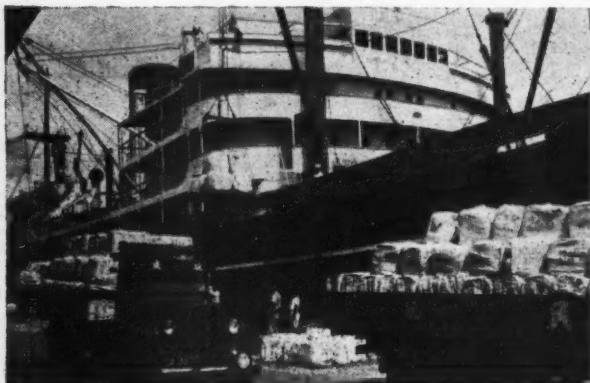
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town as its foremost task. According to preliminary plans the town will be divided into industrial, residential, and office and amenity sections. Every block of housing will be sheltered with trees and every fifty blocks will have general goods and food stores at convenient distances. In the office and amenity section there will appear high office buildings, cultural palaces, open-air cinemas and dance pavilions for summer use, gymnasiums with skating rinks, new schools and hospitals and other institutions.

Karamai, situated in the Sinkiang Uighur Autonomous Region, means "black oil" in the Uighur language. The name, Karamai, which was only recently placed on the map originates from a low hill in this district. The hill is covered with a heavy layer of sticky tar. Oil flows from the cracks in the ground into bubbling black pools or right down the hill and the air is filled with the smell of oil. Recorded history says that the oil around here has been flowing out for more than forty years. In the past nomad herdsmen sold it as lamp oil and roof paving in distant cities.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, a Russian geologist had already discovered oil in Karamai. Then in 1951 another geologist, from the Soviet Union, did the same. In 1954, a geological team led by the Soviet expert Uvarov came to Karamai to study its resources. The expert drew the conclusion from his investigations and experiences that Karamai, a platform similar to the oil-producing "Russian Platform" of the Soviet Union, was a most promising oil-bearing region. He suggested that drilling on a wide scale be carried out. However, some Chinese geologists disagreed, sticking to the old, accepted theory that the appearance of tar on the surface meant the destruction of oil-bearing structures and the evaporation of oil. They thought it not worthwhile to attempt drilling in this region.

It was not until the summer of 1955 that the first test-well was finally sunk in Karamai. The drilling team had to live in dugouts, and even in the open air at the very beginning. At times they had only dry rations to eat. The truck which brought in water took seven hours to make a round trip. The scorching heat and strong Gobi winds and the fierce attack of mosquitoes and gadflies were also severe tests for the pioneers. All these privations were well compensated, however, when oil spouted out of the well three months afterwards. A year later, twenty-six test-wells dotted an area of some 2,400 square kilometres were already producing.

This oilfield, together with other oil-bearing regions discovered, has completely refuted the allegation made by foreign geologists that China was an "oil-poor country." The other regions are the Tsaidam Basin in Chinghai Province, where a number of testwells are producing oil, the Ordos region bordering on Chinghai, Kansu, Shensi provinces and Inner Mongolia, where scores of oil-bearing structures have been located, and the Szechwan Basin.

Tests have shown that the oil in Karamai is far superior in quality to that in the Yumen Oilfield, China's biggest oil-producing centre. Boring conditions are satisfactory. There have been very few cases of caved-in wells, frozen drill pipes and extraordinarily high-pressure underground water. Low-gravity mud can be used in drilling and most of the wells have gushed oil at relatively low depths. With the expansion of the drilling operations, which are going on day and night, Karamai's oil-bearing area is found to be even larger than before. It is not yet known how big it actually is.

— *List of —****China's Export and Import Specialized Corporations***

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<b>China National Silk Corporation.</b>	<b>CHISICORP PEKING</b>	Foreign Trade Building, Tung Chang An Street, Peking.
<b>China National Tea Export Corporation.</b>	<b>NATIONTEA PEKING</b>	57, Li Shih Hutung, Tung Szu Pai- lou, Peking.
<b>China National Minerals Corporation.</b>	<b>CHIMINCORP PEKING</b>	3, Pao Chan Sze Street, Peking.
<b>China National Animal By-products Export Corporation.</b>	<b>BYPRODUCTS PEKING</b>	4, Wangchia Hutung, East City, Peking.
<b>China National Cereals, Oils and Fats Export Corporation.</b>	<b>NATIONOIL PEKING</b>	57, Chu Shih Ta Chieh, Peking.
<b>China National Foodstuffs Export Corporation.</b>	<b>FOODSTUFFS PEKING</b>	38, Chiao Tze Hutung, Kuang An Men Street, Peking.
<b>China National Native Produce Export Corporation.</b>	<b>PROCHINA PEKING</b>	46, Hu Fang Chiao Street, Peking.
<b>China National Sundries Export Corporation.</b>	<b>SUNDRY PEKING</b>	32a, Chiu Tian Hutung, East City, Peking.
<b>China National Import and Export Corporation.</b>	<b>CNIEC PEKING</b>	Erh Li Kou, Outside Hsi Chih Men, Peking.
<b>China National Technical Import Corporation.</b>	<b>TECHIMPORT PEKING</b>	Erh Li Kou, Outside Hsi Chih Men, Peking.
<b>China National Metals Import Corporation.</b>	<b>CHIMETALS PEKING</b>	Erh Li Kou, Outside Hsi Chih Men, Peking.
<b>China National Machinery Import Corporation.</b>	<b>MACHIMPORT PEKING</b>	Erh Li Kou, Outside Hsi Chih Men, Peking.
<b>China National Transport Machinery Import Corporation.</b>	<b>TRANSMACH PEKING</b>	Erh Li Kou, Outside Hsi Chih Men, Peking.
<b>China National Instruments Import Corporation.</b>	<b>INSTRIMPORT PEKING</b>	Erh Li Kou, Outside Hsi Chih Men, Peking.
<b>China National Foreign Trade Transporta- tion Corporation.</b>	<b>SINOTRANS PEKING</b>	Erh Li Kou, Outside Hsi Chih Men, Peking.
<b>Sinofracht Chartering and Shipbroking Corporation.</b>	<b>SINOFRACHT PEKING</b>	Erh Li Kou, Outside Hsi Chih Men, Peking.

# SWITZERLAND AND ASIA

*By a Special Correspondent in Berne*

**D**URING the first six months of 1957, Switzerland's trade with Asia continued to expand, the country's exports to the main markets of that area registering a further large increase.

Switzerland's exports to China and Hong Kong reached the value of 94.9 million Swiss francs as against 52 million Sw. Frs. during the corresponding period of 1956. Exports to India and Japan, the two other largest markets of that area also show a considerable increase.

While Switzerland's global exports during the first half of 1957 went up, the country's imports grew at a higher rate — as the following table shows — which has led to an increased unfavourable trade balance.

	1956	1957
	first six months of the year	
Switzerland's global imports	3,545	4,352
exports	2,902	3,260

(all figures in million Swiss francs)

At the same time Switzerland has a strong favourable trade balance with Asia (see also June issue of EASTERN WORLD), which in the light of the country's global trading figures adds to the importance of trade with Asia from the national economy's point of view. The following table shows the development of Switzerland's trade with the main countries of South-East Asia and the Far East. The only

Asian countries which have a favourable trade balance with Switzerland are the Federation of Malaya — the largest supplier of rubber to Switzerland, Ceylon, the Philippines and Afghanistan. The other Asian countries fully realise that due to the structure and size of Switzerland's national economy the pattern of their trade with that country is to remain on the existing lines, namely that Switzerland can offer more goods which Asian countries require than the value of goods which Switzerland can import from these Asian suppliers. But at the same time responsible Asian officials would like to see the narrowing down of their countries' unfavourable trade balance with Switzerland by that country's higher imports from Asia, or a larger participation of Swiss capital in the economic development of Asian countries.

	Imports			Exports		
	1955 whole year	1956 whole year	1957 first half	1955 whole year	1956 whole year	1957 first half
Afghanistan	2.7	3.2	1.5	1.1	1.3	0.9
India	23.5	21.5	15.8	109.5	146.3	91.4
Pakistan	2.8	3.0	3.3	14.8	14.1	4.1
Ceylon	13.9	15.0	7.0	8.4	9.4	4.1
Singapore	1.0	2.0	0.7	39.3	47.5	26.3
Fed. of Malaya	14.6	20.8	11.6	2.8	4.0	2.4
Burma	0.4	0.1	0.1	6.2	4.9	3.2
Thailand	0.7	0.7	0.7	18.9	23.0	11.0
Indo-China	0.1	0.1	0.1	6.4	5.2	2.4
Indonesia	18.3	17.8	9.2	19.6	29.7	13.0
Philippines	21.8	19.6	11.0	11.2	12.2	6.2
China, Hong Kong	67.8	81.9	29.1	101.9	151.8	94.3
Japan	39.0	49.1	35.7	58.3	67.8	47.9

(all figures in million Swiss francs)

The prospects of further development of trade between Switzerland and Asian countries are generally considered favourably. Asian countries have embarked on the path of economic development and industrialisation and their requirements of capital goods and precision instruments are growing steadily. Switzerland's highly developed and diversified industries have a high reputation in Asian markets and are able to compete with manufacturers from other countries despite comparatively high wages paid by Swiss industry. Your correspondent was repeatedly told by Swiss manufacturers that in Asian countries — contrary to the position of about 10 years ago — greater emphasis is now placed on the quality of capital goods and that the price factor alone is no longer decisive for the placing of orders.

Swiss trading firms which are well established in the Far East and are specialising in trade in some Asian territories conduct their business activities not only between the respective Asian countries and Switzerland, but also between Asia and other areas of the world.

At present the long-term payment credits requested by some Asian countries represent a major obstacle for the conclusion of many contracts, particularly as most Swiss manufacturers (like their competitors in other industrialised countries) have full order books. But the following considerations are to be taken into account:

(1) The request for long-term payment conditions e



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in the case of India, are due to heavy expenditure on development projects, the benefits of which to India's national economy, her foreign trade balance and her ability to buy more goods from abroad later on, will become apparent after

the completion of the major development schemes. The present financial difficulties of these countries are not due to an inherent or basic weakness of their economy. They are only of a temporary nature and have resulted from the process of a vigorous development which will result in making the economy of these countries stronger in future which is also the interest of their trading partners.

(2) The requests for long-term payment conditions are not confined to Swiss suppliers but apply equally to contracts to be concluded with manufacturers of all countries.

(3) The potential value of the Asian markets is undisputedly very high and will further expand with the economic development of these countries. Those manufacturers of capital goods who supply their products to Asian countries at the present time, are bound to benefit in future.

It is to be hoped in the interest of all parties concerned, that these temporary financial difficulties will be overcome as soon as possible. Switzerland's contribution to the solution of this problem can be decided upon only by the country's financial institutions, industry and authorities.

## Switzerland's Industries and Asia

By A. James

THE structural changes of the Swiss national economy during the last decades have led to an increased share of the country's total production being accounted for by products of the metalworking industries (including machine building, machine tools and electrical goods), precision instruments and watches manufacture, and of the chemical industries.

This trend in Switzerland has coincided in the post-War period with the economic development of Asian countries which have entered the world markets as buyers of capital and industrial goods on a much larger scale than in the past. These two developments have led to increased Swiss exports to Asia, and the potential value of Asian markets is fully realised by Swiss industrialists and bankers. In the course of the last few years large orders from Asia have been placed in Switzerland for railway stock and equipment, machine tools, equipment for power stations and machinery of different types, including textile, packaging and printing machinery. The economic development of Asian countries has created an increasing market for precision instruments which are required in industry as well as in the newly established scientific institutes.

The interest shown by Asian buyers in Swiss products is clearly demonstrated by the Asian visitors to the annual Swiss Industries Fair, Basle. At the next Fair, which will take place between April 12 and 24, 1958, the Swiss machine tools will be exhibited again after an interval of 3 years and an additional hall has been erected to enable this industry to show its goods in two pavilions. In 1957, most of Switzerland's industries continued to have a boom and by the end of the second quarter the number of employed workers increased by over 5 percent compared with the corresponding period of last year, and was by over 28 percent higher than that in 1949. Despite these increases the Swiss industries suffer from a shortage of skilled workers and

technicians.

Recently imposed credit restrictions may affect adversely the Swiss home market which would make Swiss industrialists even more export-minded. On the other hand, despite increased production the incoming orders received by the Swiss machine and apparatus-building industries, including those from abroad, have outpaced the production. By the end of June the average volume of booked orders covered 8.5 months production as against 8.3 months production registered on March 31. The difficulties of sharply increasing production beyond a certain capacity (coupled with the shortage of trained personnel) and tariff barriers erected by many countries have led many of the leading Swiss firms to conclude contracts with foreign firms for the manufacturing of Swiss products under licence abroad.

This trend coincides with the aspiration of Asian governments to industrialise their countries. A new chapter of Swiss-Asian economic relations was opened. In addition to pure trade relations a number of Swiss firms became instrumental in assisting in the industrialisation of Asian countries.

In Japan, Swiss firms of various industries, including chemical, machine building and machine tool producers, signed contracts supplying the technical "know how" to Japanese firms. Also, various agreements were signed by Swiss firms with the Indian Government to assist in the creation of railway stock and machine tool industries. In addition, some Swiss firms entered into agreements with private Indian firms for the production of their goods in India. At present several Swiss concerns are negotiating further contracts with the public and private sectors of the Indian economy. In some cases Swiss manufacturers have expressed regret that the final signing of contracts and the granting of licences has been delayed, although the arrangements were agreed upon in principle, several months earlier.

and though the Indian authorities have manifested great interest in these projects. There have been similar agreements with private firms in other Asian countries, including Pakistan.

On the whole, however, these contacts work smoothly and the Chairmen of various Swiss firms have expressed their satisfaction in this connection in statements to their shareholders. There is little doubt that this type of economic cooperation (which incidentally is normally accompanied by increased exports) has great future possibilities, provided that the Swiss manufacturers are satisfied with the prospects of the political and economic stability of the country in question.

The important part played by chemical exports in Switzerland's total trade with Asian countries can be seen from the fact that in 1956 the exports of chemicals to India were valued at 42.2 million Sw. francs or 28.8 percent of Switzerland's total exports to India. In the case of Pakistan the exports of chemicals were worth 6.9 million Sw. francs or 49.5 percent, and in the case of Australia 17.3 million Sw. francs or 19.9 percent of the value of Switzerland's total exports to that country.

During the first half of 1957 the exports of chemicals to India amounted to 24.5 million Sw. francs, including drugs, pharmaceutical products and perfumery for 15.4 million Sw. francs and dyestuffs for 7.1 million Sw. francs.

The exports to Japan increased from 26.7 million Sw. francs in 1956 to 16.1 million Sw. francs in the first half of 1957, including dyestuffs to the value of 8.8 million Sw. francs, drugs, pharmaceutical products and perfumery priced

at 4 million Sw. francs.

Exports to Australia reached the value of 9.5 million Sw. francs during the first half of 1957, including drugs, pharmaceutical products, perfumery to the amount of 4.8 million Sw. francs, dyestuffs for 3.3 million Sw. francs.

Swiss exports of aniline dyes to China and Hong Kong reached the value of 8.8 million Sw. francs.

Switzerland is also importing chemicals from Asia but the imports during the first half of 1957 show a certain decrease in the case of the three main Asian suppliers.

#### Switzerland's imports of chemicals

	China	Japan	India
1956 whole year	6.6	6.0	2.4
1957 first half	3.0	2.6	0.9

(in million Sw. frs.)

The 1957 imports included from China chemicals for industrial purposes, 2.6 million Sw. francs (4.1 million Sw. francs in 1956); from Japan drugs, pharmaceutical products and perfumery, 2.1 million Sw. francs; and from India chemicals for industrial purposes, 0.6 million Sw. francs, and drugs etc., 0.3 million Sw. francs.

The global exports of the Swiss watch industry increased from 18.2 million watches during the first half of 1956 to 19.5 million during the first half of 1957.

During the first six months of 1957 about 15 percent of the global exports went to three Asian markets, as China and Hong Kong imported 1,662,601 watches; Singapore 618,085 watches; and India 576,516 watches from Switzerland. The exports to Ceylon amounted to over 90,000 watches.



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# PART-TIME FARMING IN JAPAN

By Takeo Misawa (Tokyo)

IT is a remarkable feature of the development of Japanese industrial organisation that the nearly ninety years' process of industrialisation since the Restoration of 1868 has done little for the creation of "rational" farming. Towns and industries have been continuously absorbing a greater part of the rural population—sufficient, that is, to keep them developing, but still not enough to cause structural changes in the farming system. It is even rather remarkable that the recent western-minded post-war land reform does not seem to have contributed much to the rationalisation of farm management, though this was anticipated as one of the principal merits of the land reform, when it was being embarked upon.

It would be reasonable to infer from this that the pattern of industrialisation and its impact on agriculture has not been the same as in the case of England, where industrialisation has been accompanied by the creation of "capitalist" farming, though it would not seem easy to trace the inter-relationship between industry and agriculture even in this case. Even if we recognise that the productivity of land and even that of labour in Japanese agriculture has been surprisingly promoted in these years of industrialisation, it should yet be admitted that the keynote of increased productivity has been mainly in the government-sponsored plant breeding, and in the introduction of chemical fertilisers, and not in the innovation of farming systems. As was pointed out by one of the foremost Japanese authorities on agricultural economics, in a book published almost twenty years ago, there has been little sign of the "entrepreneur" farmer coming to the fore in the process of Japanese industrialisation, and of his increasing productivity in her agriculture.

Now, for the moment, to leave aside theory, and to turn to the factual aspect: it seems to have been a characteristic of the process of industrialisation that the development of industries has not lead to a rural exodus on a scale sufficient to create optimum-sized farming units, but rather that it has contributed to the creation of a large number of part-time families. In this respect, it might be worth while to call attention to the difference between English and Japanese terminology concerning the concept of the part-time farm, as this difference might, in a sense, reflect a difference in the pattern and also in the stage of economic development. Japanese agricultural statistics do not contain any concept of the part-time farm corresponding to the English usage of the term. If any member of a farm family is engaged in any other occupation than the farming of its holding, the farm family is defined as part-time. This way of definition has an advantage in the case of Japan, when we consider that members of a part-time family are often not so definitely specialised into farming and other occupations as is often the case in England, and also that most part-time families, according to this definition, have something in common in their socio-economic character.

Before discussing some of the factual aspects of part-time farming in Japan, it is necessary to describe some of the general features of Japanese agriculture. The size of a holding is, on an average, about 0.8 hectares (2 acres), and 71 percent of all holdings are in the under-one hectare group. Because of the prevalence of such small sized units, part-time farming has increased steadily, amounting to 50 percent of all farms in 1950, and 61 percent in 1954 respectively. The Survey of Farm Household Economy in 1953 showed that, on the average of about 5,000 farm households selected by random sampling, only 62 percent of the total income of a farm household was derived from agriculture, and that the income from farming was short of household expenditure by 29 percent. According to my estimation, 36 percent of agricultural land was worked under a part-time basis in 1950. As another striking feature, part-time farming is spreading not only to smaller acreage groups but also to most of those of a larger size. Thus it is clear that part-time farming has come to form a considerable factor in Japanese agriculture.

Among the characteristics of Japanese part-time farming, the mentality of the farmer (and members of the farm family) and its effects on the way of farming, is most interesting. The first and most important feature to be noticed is that each member of a part-time farm family has the opportunity to compare the profitability of agricultural and non-agricultural employment through either his own experience, or that of his family members. If the experience shows that non-agricultural employment is more profitable, as is very often the case, farming practices are liable to be neglected. It has frequently been pointed out that in most part-time farms, farmyard manure is not used as much as is necessary for the conservation of soil and the preservation of fertility. The reason is that the preparation of farmyard manure is so laborious and time-consuming as to disturb the rhythm of more profitable non-agricultural employment. For the same reason, the density of stocking is likely to be rather smaller in the districts where part-time farming prevails. Concerning farm management, most troubles come from the fact that farming practices are, to a large extent, left to the care of women, old men, and children, although most of the important decisions are made by the head of the family himself. This state of affairs must lead to insufficient exploitation of the potential capacity and efficiency of agricultural resources, and hence to the decline of agricultural productivity. Farming would thus come to be operated increasingly on a subsistence basis. Prevalence of such a way of farming must bring with it serious consequences for the national economy, as the decline of agricultural productivity as such will lead to an increase in the annual import of foodstuffs, which is unfavourable for the balance of payments under present conditions.

Another noticeable feature in the mentality of the part-

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time farmer is found in his reluctance to part with his own land, however unprofitable the farming might be. Agriculture is, in most cases, regarded by him and by his family members as a means of security especially for an emergency, such as unemployment, even when the income from the farm does not constitute an essential part of the total income of his household. This factor, combined with a relatively neglectful way of farming, seems to aggravate the decline of agricultural productivity, by preventing the land from being transferred to the hand of some other farmer who would exploit its capacity and efficiency more fully. Thus, in a country like Japan, where part-time farming is steadily gaining ground, from the national economic standpoint, there is need of prudent consideration concerning the adoption of a policy of encouraging part-time farming as a remedy for small farms—a policy which might also contribute to the increase in the total income of a farm family.

Enquiries were made recently of the workers of a chemical factory, located in a rural district in Japan, most of whom were members of part-time farm families, and were more or less engaged in or interested in farming at their homes. The results will supplement the rather general arguments above.

Location of factory: Toyama-ken, Japan.

Line of production: chemical fertilisers.

Total number of workers: 2,000.

Workers from farm families: 800.

Number of questionnaires available: 395.

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**Question 1:** What part do you play in farming at home?

**Types of answer:**

- (a) main supplier of labour.
- (b) engaged in farming only in busy seasons.
- (c) decide the essential problems, though not a main supplier of labour.
- (d) only help wife and parents in farming, leaving them the main tasks of farming.
- (e) nothing to do with farming.

**Number of answers:** (b) 146; (d) 92; (c) 48; (e) 34; (a) 30; (b, c) 22; (c, d) 11; no reply 12.

**Question 2:** What was your direct motive for working in the factory?

**Types of answer:**

- (a) farming income was not enough to keep the family.
- (b) there was superfluity of family labour.
- (c) to better the household economy, though farming was enough to keep the family.
- (d) wanted more liberty, rather than be confined to farming.
- (e) farming was not a proper field for showing ability.
- (f) to enjoy a more cultural life.
- (g) dislike of farming.
- (h) to escape from rural society.
- (i) nothing in particular.

**Number of answers:** (a) 176; (b) 29; (a, b) 26; (g) 25; (i) 13; (c) 12; (e) 11; (a, f) 10; (f) 9; (d) 9; (a, b, f) 5; (a, d) 5; (h) 4; (a, g) 4; (a, e) 4; (a, b, g) 3; (a, b, f, g) 2; (a, d, f) 2; (a, h) 2; (a, b, d) 1; (a, b, d, f) 1; (a, b, e, f, h) 1; (a, b, g, h) 1; (a, b, h) 1; (a, f, g, h) 1; (b, e, h) 1; (c, g) 1; (d, e) 1; (d, f) 1; (f, g) 1; (f, g, h) 1; (f, h) 1; no reply 29.

**Question 3:** What about the farming at your home?

**Types of answer:**

- (a) not necessary to extend it beyond a subsistence basis.
- (b) desirable to increase productivity, by investing more capital.
- (c) farming should be left to women and old men.
- (d) desirable to promote efficiency of farming practices.
- (e) desirable to increase acreage.
- (f) better to stop farming.
- (g) no interest in farming.

**Number of answers:** (a) 167; (b) 32; (c) 25; (e) 24; (d) 23; (g) 22; (a, c) 21; (b, d) 16; (a, e) 13; (b, e) 12; (a, d) 12; (f) 6; (d, e) 3; (c, e) 2; (b, d, e) 2; (b, c) 2; (b, c, d) nil; no reply 12.

**Question 4:** What about the relation between working in the factory, and farming at home?

**Types of answer:**

- (a) quite compatible as things are.
- (b) more compatible if techniques of farming were to be improved.
- (c) incompatible.

**Number of answers:** (a) 196; (b) 112; (c) 22; no reply 65.

**Question 5:** What about the effects on farming at home of your working in the factory?

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*Airview of the Narihira Tobacco Factory in Tokyo,  
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**Types of answer:**

- (a) farming capital had increased.
- (b) become keener on labour saving farming.
- (c) knowledge obtained from work colleagues is favourable for farming.
- (d) productivity of land declined.
- (e) hired labour increased.
- (f) interest in farming decreased.
- (g) nothing in particular.

**Number of answers:** (g) 131; (a) 48; (b) 33; (c) 20; (a, c) 19; (f) 18; (a, b) 14; (d) 11; (e) 8; (b, c) 6; (a, e) 6; (a, b, c) 4; (b, e) 2; (c, e) 2; (d, e) 2; (d, f) 2; (a, b, c) 1; (b, d) 1; (b, d, e) 1; (e, f) 1; no reply 65.

**Question 6: What about your social standing?****Types of answer:**

- (a) dropped out of the rural community.
- (b) still have a foothold in the rural community.
- (c) rank with the proletariat in towns.
- (d) different status from the proletariat in towns.
- (e) feel inferiority in the local community.
- (f) taking a leading part in the local community.

**Numbers of answers:** (b) 119; (a) 55; (b, d) 41; (d) 32; (a, d) 16; (c) 13; (a, c) 7; (e) 6; (b) 5; (b, c) 5; (b, e) 4; (d, f) 2; (a, c) 2; (a, d, e) 1; (b, d, f) 1; (b, f) 1; no reply 85.

**Question 7: What about your future?****Types of answer:**

- (a) would like to return to farming.
- (b) would have to leave farming after all.
- (c) would like to continue part-time farming.
- (d) would like to have some other occupation.

**Number of answer:** (c) 229; (b) 75, (a) 17; (d) 7; no reply 67.

It seems worth while to point out some of the positive factors in the mentality of the part-time farmer. Most of them are keen to improve the efficiency of agriculture methods to get over seasonal peak loads. They are very often more interested in labour saving farming than are full-time farmers. Some of them are actually investing a fairly large part of their incomes in machinery, chemical fertilisers, and selective weed-killers, to curtail labour requirements in farming. And if part-time farming is to be encouraged as a remedy for small farms, even on a temporary basis, such positive factors should not be ignored. In this connection, it seems necessary to develop a system of techniques available for part-time farming and also conducive to the promotion of agricultural productivity, by making the most of those positive factors in the part-time farmer's mentality. In this respect the most important role will be played by an agricultural advisory, or extension service.

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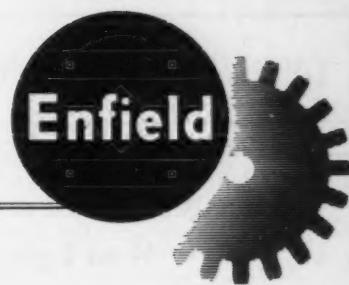
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## INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL NOTES

### China's increased imports from West Europe

WEST GERMANY'S exports to China reached the value of DM 82.3 millions during the first seven months of 1957 as against DM 10 million during the corresponding period of last year. A West German trade delegation is at present in China and negotiations for a trade agreement are in progress. It is expected that the new arrangements will result in German exports to the value of DM 240 million and in German imports from China to the same amount. (Germany's imports from China totalled DM 22.8 million during the first seven months of 1957). West Germany's exports to Hong Kong increased to DM 68.8 million during the first seven months of 1957 as against DM 43.2 millions during the corresponding period of 1956.

FRENCH exports to China reached the value of 4,112.5 million Fr. francs and those to Hong Kong 1,407.1 million Fr. francs during the first five months of 1957, as against 7,976.5 millions and 2,340.4 million respectively during the whole of 1956. The main French exports to China included machinery, equipment, vehicles, wool etc.

SWITZERLAND'S exports to China and Hong Kong reached 95 million Swiss francs during the first six months of 1957 as against 52 million during the corresponding period of 1956.

SWEDEN'S exports to China were valued at 47.8 million Sw. Kr. during the first five months of 1957 as against 31.4 million Sw. Kr. during the whole of 1956. Sweden's main exports included paper, cardboard, treated wood, machinery.

NORWAY'S exports to China increased to 2 million N. Kr. during the first five months of 1957 as against 0.8 million N. Kr. during the corresponding period of 1956.

### CHINA'S INCREASED RUBBER IMPORTS

China imported from Indonesia 23,606 tons of rubber during the first five months of 1957 as against 1,372 tons during the whole of 1956.

China's imports from Malaya amounted to 5,445 tons during the first seven months of 1957 compared with 8,707 tons during the whole of 1956.

Her imports from Ceylon were 36,208 tons during the first six months of 1957 as against 54,686 tons during the whole of 1956.

### JAPANESE TRADE MISSION IN CHINA

An 11-member Japanese mission to negotiate a 4th trade agreement in China left Japan for Peking on September 14. The head of the mission is Masanosuke

Ikeda, representative of the Standing Committee of the Diet Members' Union to Promote Japan-China Trade and Chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Special Committee for China Trade. Others include 2 Diet members from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and 2 from the Social Democratic Party, 1 Diet member from the Communist Party and one from the Ryokukai, and 2 representatives each from the Japan International Trade Promotion Association and the Japan-China Export-Import Association.

No concrete steps however have so far been taken by the Japanese Government to remove the obstacles in the way of Japan-China trade. Foreign Minister Fujiyama has stated that the term "trade mission" had strong political implications and it would be better to set up a

trading organisation named "China Trade Company" or something of that sort.

**SINO-AFGHAN TRADE AGREEMENT**  
According to the recently signed Sino-Afghan trade agreement, China will export tea, textiles, paper, and construction materials to Afghanistan. In return, Afghanistan will export wool, cotton, sheepskins, fruits and oil-bearing seeds to China.

The agreement is valid for two years and may extend automatically for another.

Chinese tea and textiles enjoyed long-standing popularity among the Afghan people since 138 B.C. when Chinese envoy Chang Chien of the Han dynasty first pioneered the "silk route" to the Kushan Empire, an ancient state of Afghanistan.

### MALAYA NOT SEEKING ANY LOANS YET

Col. Sir Henry H. S. Lee, Finance Minister of the Federation of Malaya, said in London last month that Malaya was not seeking any loans at present. The Minister, who was passing through Britain on his way to the meeting of the International Monetary Fund in Washington, declared emphatically that his Government had no plans for nationalisation of industry in Malaya. Malaya was interested in private capital investments from abroad, but every application was examined from the point of view of how far such investment would be of benefit to the economy of the country. Recently a number of applications have come forward from the US and Australia. At present Malaya's foreign capital investments were still governed by treaties concluded by the British Government in the past, but the Malayan Government intends to negotiate new treaties on this subject with foreign countries. In the field of granting leases for tin prospecting it was up to the individual State Governments and not the Federal Government of Malaya to make decisions, but the Minister referred to the fact that recently the American Pacific Tin Company had taken a new lease. Asked about the possibility of increased rubber sales to China, Sir Henry replied that contrary to Ceylon's agreement with China (rubber in exchange for rice) Malayan rubber was sold only on the free market and "everybody could buy it freely." The Malayan Government was not contemplating any barter agreements.

After his visit to the United States and Canada (meeting of Commonwealth Ministers of Trade and Finance) the Minister will pay a visit to Japan, as the Japanese Government has expressed the wish to establish diplomatic relations with Malaya, and will take the opportunity of discussing some financial questions. On his flight home he will stop in Hong Kong as it is the intention to establish a Malayan Trade Commissioner's Office there.

### UK TRADE WITH CHINA

	1955	1956	7 months Jan.-July, 1957	7 months Jan.-July, 1956
Imports	12,302,063	12,586,353	7,059,833	6,222,055
Exports	7,868,317	10,688,946	6,740,808	5,439,070
Re-exports	78,137	100,129	61,792	67,924

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Please quote reference No. 50/57/RLY.

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Forms of tender may be obtained from the above address on or after the 20th September, 1957, at a fee of 10/- which is not returnable. If payment is made by cheque, it should please be made payable to "High Commissioner for India." Tenders are to be delivered by 2 p.m. on Monday 4th November, 1957.

Please quote reference No. 54/57 DB/Rly.2.

The Director General of India Store Department, Government Building, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London, W.3., invites tenders for the supply of:—

**TWO OFF — HORIZONTAL BORING MACHINES, SPINDLE DIA. 76 MM; MAIN TABLE SIZE 762 x 1220 MM; CENTRE OF SPINDLE TO MAIN TABLE 750 MM; GENERALLY SIMILAR TO KEARN NO. 2 MACHINE.**  
Ref No. 2030/57/ENG.3

**FIVE OFF — HORIZONTAL, 2-SPINDLE FINE BORING AND DRILLING MACHINES FOR RIFLE FACTORY, CENTRES 89 MM; MAXIMUM LENGTH TO BE BORED/DRILLED 305 MM AND 813 MM.**  
Ref. No. 2062/57/1/ENG.3

**FOUR NOS. — AUTOMATIC INTERNAL THREAD MILLING MACHINES. CAPACITY 152 MM EXTERNAL AND 191 MM INTERNAL — DIAM. X 610 MM BETWEEN CENTRES.**  
Ref. No. 2026/57/ENG.3

**TWO OFF — 250 TON SHELL NOSING PRESSES FOR SHELLS 4" DIA. x 18" LONG, AND HAVING OUTPUT OF 50 SHELLS PER HOUR.**  
Ref. No. 2064/57/ENG.3

Tender schedules and specifications may be obtained from the above address at a fee of ten shillings per set which is not returnable. The cheques should be made payable to "High Commissioner for India." The applications for tender forms should state description of machine and corresponding reference for which schedules are required.

Tenders complete with specifications are to be submitted by Monday the 4th November, 1957.

The Director General of India Store Department, Government Building, Bromyard Avenue, Acton, London W.3., invites tenders for the supply of:—

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(1) Main Bar Frame	
with Frame clips completely machined on all faces.	17. R.H.
	17. L.H.
(2) Main Bar Frame	53. R.H.
Slab rough.	53. L.H.

Forms of tender may be obtained from the above address on or after the 27th September, 1957, at a fee of 10/- which is not returnable. If payment is made by cheque, it should please be made payable to "High Commissioner for India." Tenders are to be delivered by 2 p.m. on Monday 11th November, 1957.

Please quote reference No. 57/57 DB/Rly.2.

## MODERN EQUIPMENT FOR INDIAN PORTS

India's Minister for Transport and Communications, Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri has stated that the Government of India had decided to send a small purchase team abroad to make spot purchases of suitable equipment needed urgently by Indian ports. He thought that it would be possible to get sufficient ready material and if that was so, it should be possible to ship them to India within about three months time.

Mr. Shastri outlined some further steps to be taken to improve existing port facilities. A total of 22 points would be developed at various places in the Calcutta area. Each of them should be able to handle 100 tons of cargo daily. All of them put together would provide an additional cargo handling capacity of more than 800,000 tons a year. The Minister added that plans had been drawn up to put all these points into commission within six months. Other plans include the immediate purchase of 29 mobile cranes, 45 cranes of other types, eight fork lifters, one floating crane and about 250 US trolleys. A phased programme would be prepared for replacing old and inefficient cranes by modern ones, and there would also be a phased programme for remodelling and replacement on the port railways.

## PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO OFFICES

The Port of San Francisco established cargo sales representation last month in Singapore, Hong Kong and the Malayan ports of Penang and Swettenham. The port has also an office in Tokyo.

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## SINO-VIETNAMESE ECONOMICS

The 1957 trade and payments agreement between China and Viet Nam and the protocol on Chinese aid to Viet Nam signed recently in Hanoi, were important measures to further Sino-Vietnamese economic cooperation, according to an article in Peking's *People's Daily*.

This cooperation, the article said, had been broadened in sphere and multiplied in form during the past few years. At present trade between the two countries took three forms. The first was reciprocal state trade which rose to 13 times the 1952 level last year. China was Viet Nam's biggest customer abroad, the article said. The second form was direct trade between local trading companies on the Sino-Vietnamese border. The third was the small-scale traditional trade between people living on the two sides of the border.

Another important form of economic cooperation was the aid extended to Viet Nam by China. From 1953 to 1959 China would have extended 800 million yuan of aid to Viet Nam. So far, this included assistance in the construction of railways and factories, materials and technicians to restore communications, transport and water conservancy projects. Vietnamese technicians had been trained in China.

Under the agreement China will supply Viet Nam with cotton textiles, cotton yarns, rubber tyres, rolled steel, stationeries, medical herbs and drugs; Viet Nam will supply China with farm products, timber and other native products, minerals and handicraft goods.

At the same time a protocol on Chinese aid to Viet Nam for the current year was also signed in accordance with the joint Sino-Vietnamese communiqué of 1955.

## CZECHOSLOVAK PROJECT IN INDONESIA

A Czechoslovak trade and industrial mission, now visiting Indonesia, has expressed preparedness to sell a cigarette factory for the Malang tobacco area. The

Brantas River project now under way, namely the canalization of the river to the Indian Ocean, involved the use of Rps. 9.000.000 worth of equipment imported from Czechoslovakia.

## HONG KONG'S WOOL TRADE

During the first five months of 1957 Hong Kong imports included: yarns wholly of wool or fine hair, to the value of HK\$9.5 million mainly from the UK (HK\$3.7 million) and from Japan (HK\$ 5.4 million); yarns of wool or fine hair mixed with other materials to the amount of HK\$2.1 million, including from Japan for HK\$1.7 million, and from the UK for £0.2 million; yarns of wool or fine hair put up for retail sale (for knitting, embroidery etc.) valued at HK\$ 2.2 million, including from Japan for HK\$1.3 million and from the UK for 0.8 million; sheep's and lambs' raw wool to the value of HK\$0.7 million — all from Australia; fine animal hair (including angora) to the value of HK\$4.0 million, all from Australia but for a small quantity from South Africa (HK\$ 0.1 million); wool tops to the total value of HK\$12 million, including from the UK for 6.4 million, from Australia for 4.5 million and from South America for 1.1 million. In addition Hong Kong imported from China fine animal hair (not suitable for spinning) for HK\$32,734, horse hair and other coarse hair for HK\$130,512 and wool waste for HK\$ 41,143.

Hong Kong's exports during the first five months of 1957 included: sheep's and lambs' wool valued at HK\$5.5 million, all to Japan, and fine animal hair (not suitable for spinning) worth HK\$0.2 million also to Japan; wool tops for HK\$0.3 million to South Korea; waste of wool to the amount of HK\$0.3 million mainly to the UK and a small quantity to Japan; yarns, wholly of wool or fine hair valued at HK\$4.0 million, including to South Korea for HK\$3.2 million, and to Italy for HK\$0.7 million; yarns of wool or fine hair mixed with other materials to the value of HK\$ 0.8 million, all to Indonesia; yarns of wool

put up for retail sale (for knitting, embroidery etc.) priced at HK\$1.3 million, including to South Korea for 0.8 million, China for 0.3 million and to Malaya for 0.1 million.

## INCREASE IN AUSTRALIA'S WOOL SHIPMENTS

Australia exported nearly 83 million lb. of wool (greasy), valued at £A27 million, in July, the first month of the present wool season. This represents an increase of more than 5 percent in volume and more than 17 percent in value, when compared with exports in July 1956.

## JAPAN'S WOOL INDUSTRY

Japan's raw wool imports increased from 205.4 million lb. valued at Y59.2 million in 1955 to 291.7 million lb. valued at Y79.7 million in 1956 and reached 175.4 million lb. worth Y59.9 million during the first six months of 1957.

Japan's output of wool yarn increased from 184.7 million lb. in 1955 to 232.3 million lb. in 1956 and amounted to 109.4 million lb. during the first five months of 1957. The output of woollen fabrics increased from 185.6 million sq. yds. in 1955 to 220.4 million sq. yds. in 1956 and amounted to 97.2 million sq. yds. during the first five months of 1957.

The output of wool tops reached 76.7 million lb. during the first six months of 1957 as against 57.5 million lb. during the corresponding period of 1956.

The consumption of virgin wool by the Japanese wool textile industries increased from 77.9 million lb. (clean) during the first half of 1956 to 99.8 million lb. during the first half of 1957, or by 28.1 percent. The trend for a higher consumption of wool in Japan is also evident from the fact that whereas in most industrial countries the consumption of other fibres used by the textile industries is increasing, in Japan the consumption of other fibres dropped from 66.4 million lb. during the first half of 1956 to 65.8 million lb. during the corresponding period of 1957.

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# FLYING INTO THE ASIAN MARKET

*By our Special Correspondent*

THE eighteenth Society of British Aircraft Constructors air display at Farnborough this year, as it has so often done before, attracted a great number of foreign visitors. Many people from Asia were to be seen taking more than a superficial interest in the aircraft and accessory equipment on show. Representatives from most airlines in Asia were present at some time during the week, as were air attaches representing Asian countries.

The central purpose of the flying display for the past few years has been to demonstrate the increasing power of the jet engine. This year the rocket motor made its first appearance, and together with the jet engine it represents a factor of power which the ordinary person can scarcely believe possible. Most people the world over are now familiar with the jet engine, but it is only at displays such as Farnborough that its full power and capabilities are manifest.

For anyone who has a long association and close acquaintance with propellor aircraft, the jet driven military aeroplane of today belongs to a different world — indeed, it is a world quite different from everyday life — and the impression is that the men who fly them are sitting astride a volcano of utter power too great for an ordinary human being to control. But in fact the pilots are the masters, and they handle the machines with a delicacy of touch that is beautiful to watch. For the onlooker it is a bewilderment of intense, all-consuming noise. As the jets reach their full power in the moment before take off the very earth shakes, and breath eddys into the lungs in a series of vibrant pockets of air.

When the Hawker Hunters and the Gloster Javelins, the Avro Vulcans and the Handley Page Victors have ripped and screamed through their paces, there is the smoothness and grace and comparative quiet of the engine driven commercial aircraft. Even the de Havilland Comet, the only British jet-driven airliner, is quiet compared with the military jet planes.

The performance and internal comfort of most of the commercial aircraft to be seen at this year's Farnborough was very impressive. Manufacturers are sparing no effort in making British built planes suitable for every kind of service, and many of those to be seen in the show have everything to recommend their use in tropical climates and in areas where there are difficulties of one sort or another.

Scottish Aviation Ltd., for instance, with the Pioneer and the Twin Pioneer have developed two aircraft at low cost which are versatile in performance, can carry a large payload for their size, and have the great advantage, as far as many Asian countries are concerned which have few big airfields in outlying places, of being able to land and take off with a very short run as easily on grass as on a metalled runway. The Pioneer, a high wing, single engine monoplane, has been in use with the RAF in Malaya and elsewhere in a variety of roles. The Twin Pioneer, high wing monoplane with two 550 h.p. piston engines can carry 16 passengers or 3,008 lb. payload, and the version shown at Farnborough was fitted to carry bombs and military equipment. This plane has already been used extensively, in its

passenger and freight capacity, by KLM in New Guinea, needs only 110 yard take off run with an all up weight 13,500 lb. Its flying performance at the show was impressive.

F. G. Miles Ltd., demonstrated the capabilities of its experimental HDM 105, a box-like, high wing, two engined transport. When fully developed this plane will be known as the Caravan. It has rear loading fuselage and will carry passengers or 3,400 lb. of freight at cruising speeds up to 163 mph. In take off, fully loaded, it can clear a 50 ft. obstacle in under 500 yards. This aircraft is an experimental new approach to low cost short-haul air transport.

Several of the medium-to-large passenger-freight aircraft seen at Farnborough should be of interest to operators in Asian countries. One that brought favourable comment was the Herald, a new 44-seat medium range four-engined transport built by Handley Page Ltd. Carrying its full payload of 11,000 lb. it can use 1,000 yard grass airstrips up to 5,000 ft. above sea level. Its inside comfort and smooth quiet performance put it among the best of the medium sized commercial aircraft. A twin turboprop version of the aircraft, to be called the Dart Herald, is being built by the same company, who claim that it is particularly suitable for fast branch-line services in both developed and undeveloped areas of the world.

A small private company, Aviation Traders (Engineering) Ltd., have produced an impressive aircraft in the Accountant, powered by two Rolls Royce Dart Turboprop engines. Not enough attention was given to this economic airliner at Farnborough. It simply did one circuit, but from what was seen of it, this 28-seat passenger-freighter, short medium range airliner should be ideal for small scale operators. It is the firm's intention that this should be British replacement for the much used American DC-3 (Dakota), and in its design particular emphasis has been placed on ease of maintenance and long operational life.

Mention must be made of the two de Havilland medium airliners, the twin engine Dove 6, carrying 8-11 passengers and the Heron 2, with four 250 hp Gipsy Queen piston engines. This latter plane carries 14 to 17 passengers and can be handled with perfect safety on small landing fields.

The President, built by Hunting Percival Aircraft Ltd., is another two engined aircraft of great versatility, being easily convertible from a passenger to a freighter or ambulance, as well as for aerial survey work. Your correspondent was very impressed with the cabin arrangements and fittings of this aircraft.

It would seem that while the Comet, the Vickers Viscount and the Bristol Britannia are demanding the attention of the large scale world airline operators, the small and medium passenger-freighter aircraft are ideally suited to the kind of conditions likely to be met in Asian and Middle Eastern countries, as well as in Australia and New Zealand. Their low cost, economical running, versatile performance and simple servicing, puts the British aircraft industry right into the Asian market.

# BRANCHLINERS

The Herald branchliner is now available equipped with either piston or propeller-turbine engines.



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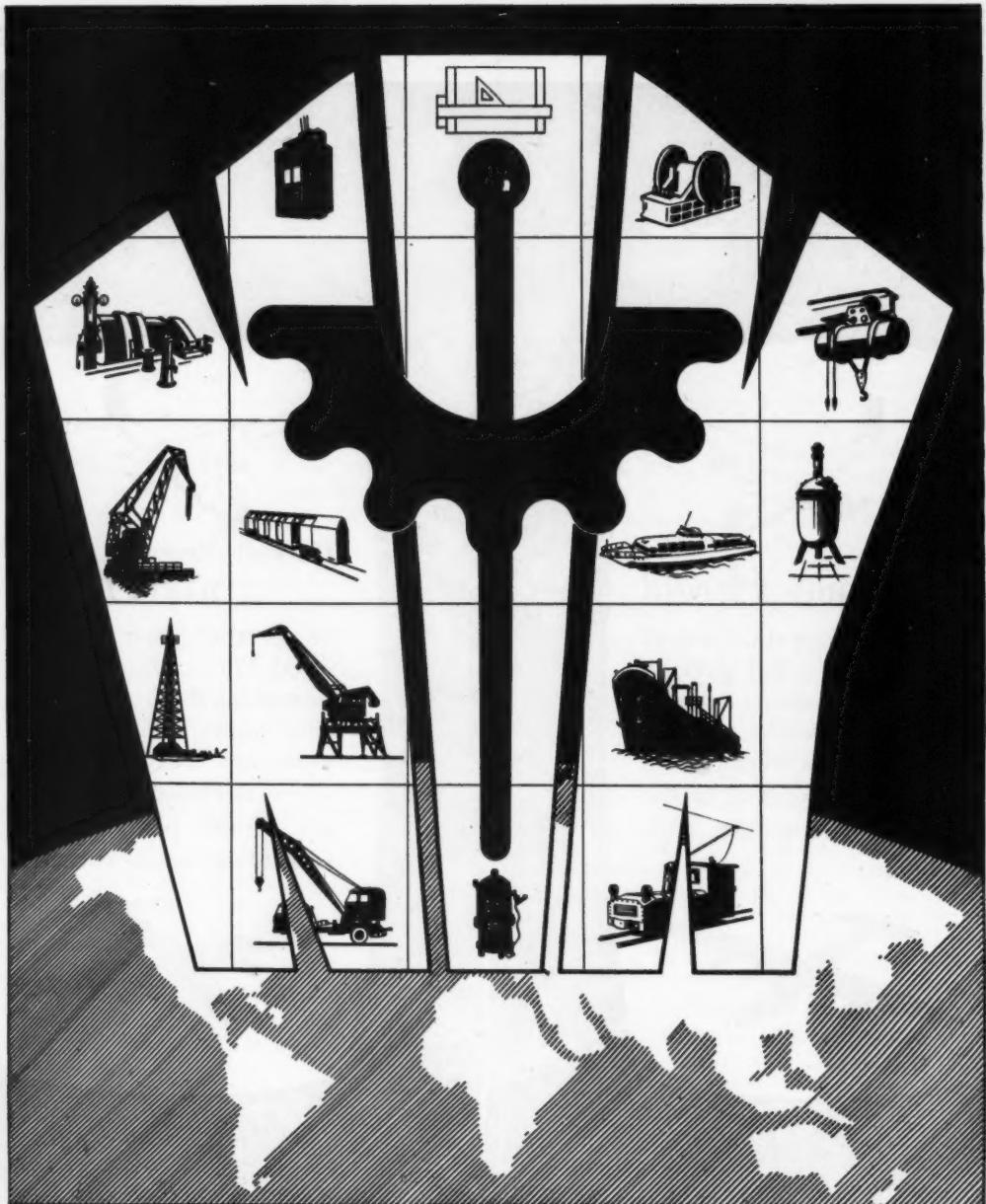
Apart from the engines and their nacelles, there will be no major structural differences between these two branchliners. They will come from production lines common to both and will be equipped with Leonides Majors or Darts as required.

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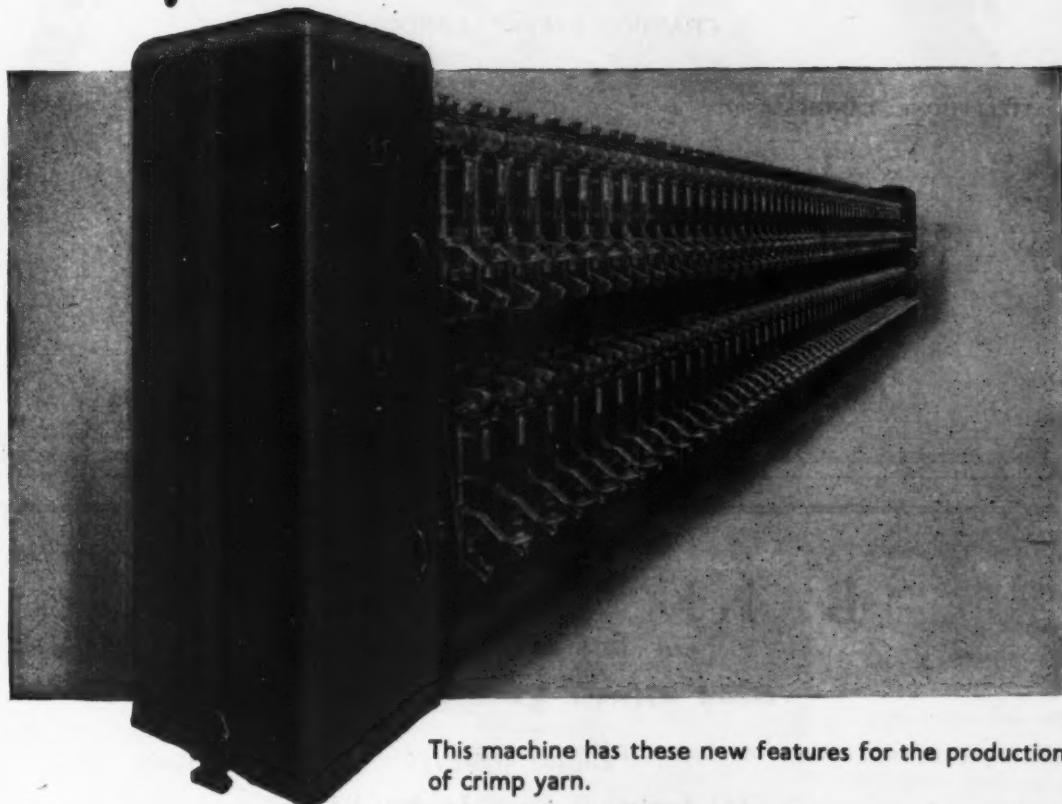
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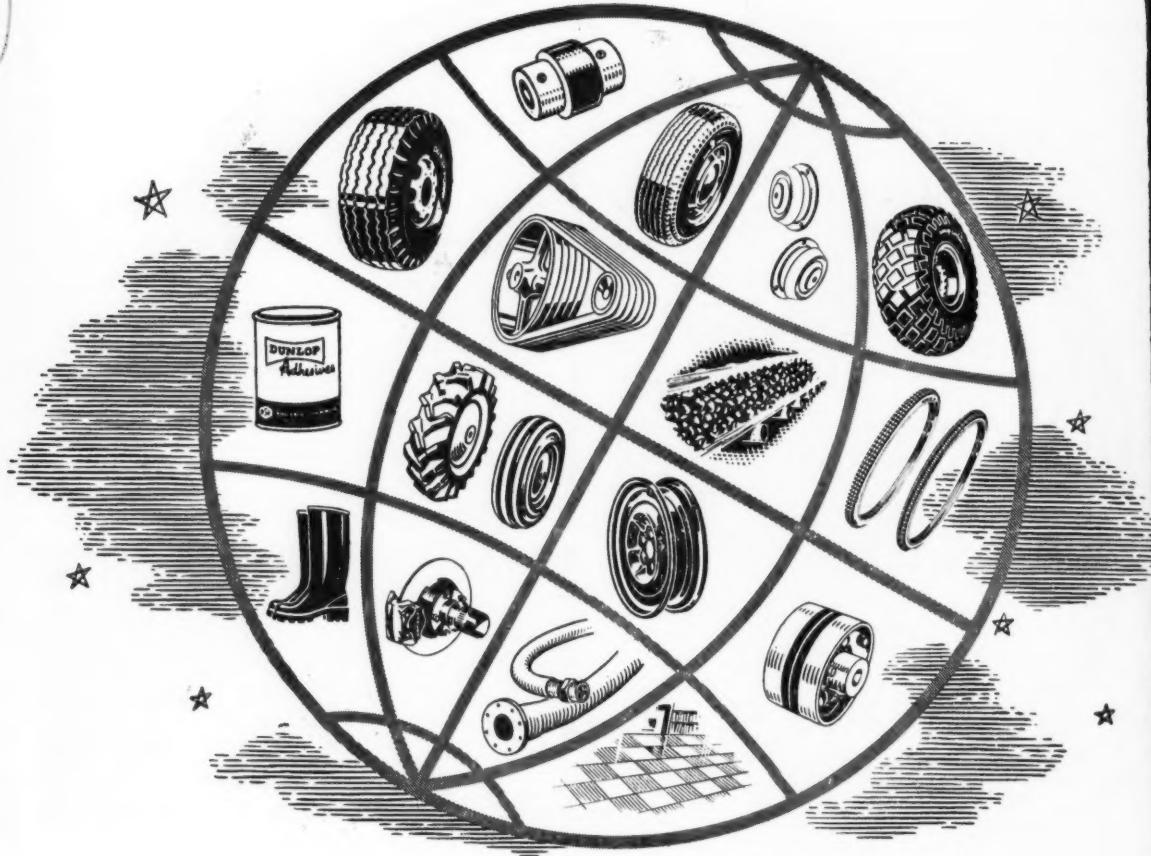
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